



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

### Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

## **Written statement\* submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, 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.

[20 August 2023]

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



## **Condemnation of the Terrorist Attack on the Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine in Shiraz, the Islamic Republic of Iran**

We strongly condemn terrorist attack on civilians at the holy Shah-e-Cheragh and express our condolences to the families of those killed. The deliberate targeting of innocent civilians is repugnant and unconscionable. We extend our deepest sympathies to the injured, and we stand firmly with them in the face of this attack.

Most victims of terrorism are innocent citizens who targeted in brutal attacks randomly. The lives of survivors, and those of their families, can be irrevocably changed. Many victims take years to recover physically from their injuries or come to terms with their losses.

Terrorism commonly refers to acts of violence that mainly target civilians in the pursuit of political or ideological purposes. Terrorism is the common enemy of humanity, and the target of joint action by the international community. Terrorist forces, by means of violence, sabotage and intimidation, pose a serious threat to world peace and security by scorning human rights, slaughtering innocent people, endangering public security, and creating fear and panic in society.

Terrorism commonly refers to acts of violence that mainly target civilians in the pursuit of political or ideological purposes. Terrorism in turn negatively affecting civilians' enjoyment of human rights, particularly the rights to life, liberty and physical integrity. Terrorism often results in catastrophic events, threatening the livelihood of governments and its people. According to the United Nations (UN), terrorism attacks the values that lie at the heart of the Charter of the UN: rules governing armed conflict and the protection of civilians, tolerance among people and nations, and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Therefore, terrorist acts can destroy cooperation among states, jeopardizing a government's territorial integrity and safety, while undermining the smooth-functioning civil society organization (CSOs).

Civilians including women and children has been the target of yet another terrorist attack in the Islamic Republic of Iran; on 26 October 2022, a sinister terrorist attack targeting pilgrims to the holy shrine of the holy Shah-e-Cheragh in Shiraz resulted in the martyrdom of 15 innocent Iranians, including men, women, and children, and the injury of 30 others. On 13 August 2023, a terrorist went on a shooting spree in the holy shrine in Shiraz, killing one and injuring 10 people. The holy Shah-e-Cheragh has come under a second deadly attack in less than a year. ISIS officially claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks.

According to human rights documentations, states have not only the right, but also the duty, to protect individuals within their jurisdiction from threats to their lives and physical integrity, including those originating from acts of "terrorism". The right to life, under Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR" or the "Covenant"), has been characterized as the supreme human right, non-derogable within the meaning of article 4 (2) of the Covenant. Accordingly, States are under an obligation to take lawful and proportionate measures aimed at preventing a real and immediate threat to life from acts of "terrorism"; to conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into such acts; to investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators in a manner consistent with international standards; and to afford adequate reparation to their victims.

Reaffirming that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

We call upon the members of the Human Rights Council to:

Stay abreast of national and regional developments in the terrorism landscape to ensure tailored and evidence-based interventions are developed;

Support the development and implementation of legislation, policies and strategies against terrorism and its financing in line with international standards and best practices;

Build capacity of government agencies and non-governmental actors to respond to terrorism and terrorism financing cases in accordance with human rights principles and rule-of-law based standards;

Support a whole-of-society approach to prevention of violent extremism and terrorism;

Enhancing mechanisms for regional and international cooperation.

Recognize the significant steps that have been taken to bring greater attention to the experiences and needs of victims of terrorism and encourages Member States to consolidate these efforts to advance meaningful legal protections for victims of terrorism

Unequivocally condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed;

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