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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 Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
(ODVV), 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.

[23 August 2008]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Human Rights Defenders

Still the human rights situation across the world is not good, and in some political systems, as well as human rights violations, the rights of human rights defenders are also violated. As harbingers of the rights of humans, human rights defenders have for years been subjected to abuse and oppression, and spend years behind bars in prisons alongside hardened criminals. The simple crime of these human rights defenders is the defense of fundamental human rights, but in some political systems, this is seen as an unforgivable crime and its punishment is torture so that by breaking the will of these defenders, they can put the spirit of man in chains.

In many countries, these harbingers of peace and friendship, human rights defenders, disappear, tortured, politically assassinated, arbitrarily detained and harassed, all for the sake of their endeavours and unequivocal support for the rightful rights of mankind.

One of the most important duties of mankind and naturally international human rights institutions is the protection and support of human rights defenders in general, and the prevention of the exploitation of these defenders by the big powers for the sake of political objectives against other countries. Therefore the declaration of positions, proper information dissemination, legal and judicial support, are measures that international human rights institutions must adopt for human rights defenders.

UN General Assembly 2006 resolution (A/RES/60/161), “*Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, at both the local and the national levels, including in times of conflict and peace-building;” and “*Urges* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Representative in the performance of her tasks and to furnish, upon request, all information for the fulfilment of her mandate”.

The Resolution on human rights defenders adopted at the 61st session of the Commission in 2005 emphasised the important contribution of individuals and NGOs to the promotion and protection of human rights, including in combating impunity, promoting access to justice, to information, and public participation in decision-making; and in promoting, strengthening, and preserving democracy, peace and security¹

As a nongovernmental, non-political human rights organization, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), announces that as part of the UNDP Cluster Project on: the National Capacity Building for the Promotion of Human Rights and Greater Access to Justice, drew up and implemented a human rights defenders education course entitled “Family Court Counsellors”. This project’s objective was to train a group of experts to provide advice and counsellors for plaintiffs that went to family courts.

While endearing the endeavours of the true human rights defenders, be they individuals or groups, whose sole aim is to improve the situation so people and the seeking of their fundamental rights, the ODVV condemns all forms of confrontation with human rights defenders under any form of excuse, and believes that the exploitation of campaigns and humane objectives of these defenders for political interests by powers that claim to be flag-

¹ preambular paragraph (PP) 8 and 9.

bearers of human rights, is an inhuman and oppressive towards the human rights of people in other countries. And this is an unpleasant service continued domination of powermongering regimes, and human rights violators in these countries.
