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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 Trafficking: Violation of Human Rights

The human trafficking problem and the organized criminal groups involved in trafficking, is indicative of one of the most difficult human rights violation issues which is growing on a daily basis.

The annual revenue generated from organized crimes is twice as much as the military budgets of countries of the world, and as an organized crime human trafficking is third most profitable trade after drugs and weapons trafficking, and is vastly growing in different countries. Human trafficking related issues such as slavery, prostitution, beggary, sex tourism, racial discrimination, illegal migration, money laundering, AIDS, domestic servitude. And all these have turned human trafficking into one of the most horrific issues domestically and internationally in the 21st Century.

The international community has set different laws and regulations for the prevention and fight against human trafficking and various countries have ratified these laws.

The preamble of the Human Trafficking Prevention Protocol expresses concern in the lack of the existence of a comprehensive and enforceable international document for the prevention of human trafficking, women and children in particular. Women and children are more vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking and are bought and sold as slaves.

As a crime that is not limited to any one particular country, human trafficking needs a multilateral international approach to control this phenomenon, and one country alone cannot fight this social problem. The failure of countries in fighting human trafficking shall result in the increasing of problem in those countries, and other countries shall be affected by this too. There are hardly any countries in the world that are not the origin, transit or destination of human trafficking.

Despite the ratification of various conventions and additional protocols such as the Convention on Combating Organized Crime and its additional protocols, and also the Convention on the Rights of the Child additional protocol, and the campaigns of nongovernmental and international organizations, we still witness the daily growth of this phenomenon.

In its new procedure the Human Rights Council while stressing on the fight against slavery, deems human trafficking as examples of modern slavery and wants all countries to fight against this growing phenomenon.

In her report, Ms. Sigma Huda, the UN special rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons has stated that despite the legislation of practical laws, establishment of protection and support systems for the victims, the ratification of the Convention on Combating Organized Crimes by some countries are some of the ways to reduce this phenomenon, but not enough practical action has taken place in this regard.

The factors in the creation of human trafficking such as economic problems and their natural effects such as inflation, unemployment, poverty, violence and its effects such as insecurity, social crises, the increase in social problems refer to the complexity of trafficking, and on the other hand the characteristics of human trafficking as an

international organized crime needs the cooperation of national and international organizations in various social, economic and cultural levels.

Government policies and plans and the legislation of practical laws for combating this phenomenon, and the joining of related conventions and additional protocols are all ways to reduce this phenomenon.

Therefore encouraging states to legislate laws and join international treaties and conventions can play a key role in the prevention and control of human trafficking.

As a nongovernmental organization active in human rights issues, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) has conducted activities on the reduction and prevention of human trafficking. The ODVV believes human trafficking is an example of modern slavery, and blatant violation of human rights, and believes that the prevention and fight against human trafficking, requires further vigilance of the UN and Human Rights Council.

Sharing its vast borders with seven countries, Iran is not immune to this phenomenon, although in comparison to other countries the statistics are lower, but even these low figures have caused concerns for society and NGOs. One of the main problems that countries face in adopting practical solutions for the reduction of human trafficking is the lack of enough information due to the hidden nature of human trafficking. Because of this reason, from 2004 the ODVV began implementing various research and information dissemination projects regarding this issue. One such project is the joint project with the International Organization for Migration regarding the compilation of a book on human trafficking, its challenges and prevention methods.

The ODVV believes that the application of international law on trafficking must not just be limited to the application of law, but programmes and policies that help to reduce trafficking in women and children must be devised and be comprehensive and far-reaching through all-sided measures must be taken. Also the provision of funds to increase women's capabilities and the education of the general public and the victims of this crime for their reemergence into society are all effective measures that the UN can have role in reducing this phenomenon.
