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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Written statement* submitted by the 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.

[15 January 2002]

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

1- The Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence feels responsible towards all the children of the world and would like to draw out the attention of the following points to the Commission on Human Rights:

2 – The Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence welcomes the implementation of the two Protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and requests the United Nations Rights of the Child Committee to create appropriate processes for the states' reports under these two protocols. We also ask all those governments who have not ratified the two protocols to do so as soon as possible, thus showing their commitment for the fate of the children of their countries. It is a great duty to protect children in armed conflicts and the preservation of the dignity of those who have been subjected to sexual exploitations, pornography, sale of the children, are all a holy duty. The Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence held a ceremony of Children Victims of Violence on the occasion of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (4 June), and condemned all forms of child abuse in armed conflict and asked governments to join the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and take necessary measures in putting an end to using children in armed conflict.

3 – In 2001 on the anniversary of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, held a ceremony with the attendance of the NGOs, experts, lecturers and the UNICEF representatives in Tehran. The importance of this ceremony was in the ways children's issues, education, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Afghan refugees' issues, were all discussed to find ways of improvement to these problems. NGOs play a key central role in the encouragement of all, especially governments, to commit and observe the improvements to children's rights. It's with this spirit that we endear those groups of the society who campaign for children's rights. In this very valuable opportunity we remembered the recommendations of the United Nations Child Rights Committee to the Islamic Republic of Iran when studying the periodical report of Iran.

4 – On the anniversary of the International Human Rights Day the Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims as a specific coordinator of Children's Rights and with the participation of NGOs active on children's issues discussed and studied various children's issues and problems the Rights of the Child in particular. The results of these discussions were put together as a statement. Here is a summary of the statement:

- With attention to the reservation of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government is obliged to clearly determine and point out the contradictory articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to prepare the basis for the implementation of the articles;
- The protection of the fundamental rights of children requires for a special law to be codified and ratified for children and an explanation of the crimes, method of prosecution and appropriate punishments;
- The government is duty bound to define the legal age of the child and inform the general public;
- The presentation of reports and surveys to NGOs from the government;
- Compulsory education of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to civil servants, and private companies;
- Setting up of an organization made up of at least 10 NGOs for handling and examination of cases of violations of the rights of the child in the country;
- Teaching life skills to children from the early stages of school;

- Ratification for teaching the Convention to the Rights of the Child to children at school;
- Teaching training and psychological skills and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to teachers and the trainers of the Society of Correction and Civility;
- Setting up of a special committee for girls for handling girls' problems and difficulties;
- Setting up of a work group to handle children's problems at school;
- Setting up of a work group to handle parents' complaints about education and training;
- Giving more freedom to NGOs for more cooperation with schools and education and training.

5 – The NGOs active in children's rights (and among them the Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims) have made attempts to set up a Council of Promotion of Culture of Peace Among Children. This Council, with the motto of "peace should be trained from the early childhood", believes that the culture of peace needs a national mobilization and all the NGOs and the governmental departments as well as the international organization by learning the culture of their own countries, and by collection of global best practices, try to educate the families. We must put aside violence as a solution and train children the peaceful methods of resolutions. As the first measures of this Council, was the holding of a seminar on "children, peace and toys" in which the participants condemned and boycotted the violent toys; in this seminar the effects of violence in media was studied. The Council of Promotion of Culture of Peace Among Children held many sessions with the senior managers of the NGOs and collected suggestions and project proposals for organization of the work of the Council, to promote the culture of peace for the next Iranian year (which starts in March 2002). In the viewpoint of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) and its Child Rights Committee, the establishment of this Council should be considered as a "best practice" and requests the special representative of the Commission on Human Rights with regards to the rights of the child and the promotion of a peace culture to remember the organizations activities.

6– The holding of the Second World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Yokohama, Japan in December 2001 has a special significance. Once again in this conference governments were promised to pursue the Stockholm Action Plan. However, the important point of the congress was the emphasis given to the role of the private sector in the prevention and fight against sexual exploitation of children. We must not forget that the private sector is one of the partners in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children. This is a very significant point, because without the cooperation of the private sector the multilateral fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children would not be possible. The Child Rights Committee of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence firmly believes that special mechanisms should be facilitated in the United Nations to increase the participation of the private sector for supporting children's human rights.
