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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Association of Iranian Short Statured Adults, Chant du Guépard dans le Désert, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The, Disability Association of Tavana, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Iran Autism Association, Iranian Thalassemia Society, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peivande Gole Narges Organization, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, Society for Protection of Street & Working Children, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh", non-governmental organizations 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.

[29 January 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Item 4: ID on the report of the SR on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran Iran-based NGOs Demand Your Excellency's Constructive Dialogue with the Country

We note the Special Rapporteur's final recommendations on the necessity of ensuring the effectiveness of humanitarian exemptions to sanctions, while the alleged exemptions are proven to have already failed.

We highly regret the Special Rapporteur's reduced attention to the impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) on all economic social and cultural rights of all Iranian people and the continued impunity of all those who commit crimes through enforcement of UCMs.

Observing the impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on all sectors of our society, including the health sector, food, education, employment, housing, living standard, water and sanitation, environment, development and the vulnerable strata including the patients, the people with disabilities and the legal and illegal migrants (1), the Iranian civil society seeks the Special Rapporteur's adequate attention to the effects of UCMs on Iranians human rights.

We encouraged the Special Rapporteur to enhance the study of the impact of sanctions on Iran and allocated more space to the discussion of the impact of sanctions on Iranians in comparison to the previous HRC reports, submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Human Rights Council. We would like to refresh our memories of the remarks presented in the UN resolutions that invite "all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures". In line with the resolutions, we call on the Special Rapporteur on Iran as the most relevant mandate holder to comprehensively report on the "collective punishment" (2) of Iranian population by sanctions.

As His Excellency has been previously informed, enforcement of UCMs and the "maximum pressure policy" have hampered all NGOs efforts aimed at safeguarding the right of vulnerable groups. Economic sanctions diminish the financial assets available to NGOs, shrinking their access to all services. At the moment, the members of the civil society who support the disadvantaged groups need more access to financial means, the ones who assist patients are struggling with limitations of access to quality medicine, affordable medical care and medical equipment banned by the widespread span and scope of far-reaching UCMs. The ones active in the field of education struggle with the increasing rate of school dropouts in disadvantaged communities, following the rising inflation and the surging of prices. And the NGOs that work toward protection of the natural environment, challenge limitation of access to green technologies and the necessary software required in the field.

NGOs working inside Iran are cut off the opportunity of receiving foreign aid due to restrictions on banking transactions under sanctions. The interbank sanctions prohibit Iran-based NGOs from cooperation with their foreign counter partners as well as UN bodies which can considerably contribute to the effectiveness of NGOs efforts in the case of sanctions removal.

We call on His Excellency to use all capacities at hand to raise the voices of Iranian NGOs in the Human Rights Council and offer remedial recommendations on how to address the widespread violations of human rights including the right to life and the right to health under sanctions.

In addition to sanctions, one more time, Iranian NGOs call on Your Excellency to get engaged in a more constructive dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on a more objective approach. Such an approach would definitely lead to enhanced mutual understandings that contributes to the work of human rights NGOs.

In addition, we invite His Excellency to increase engagement with Iran-based NGOs as institutions with on-the-ground access to the Iranian society, because full reliance on the resources and information offered by information sources outside Iran, affects the credibility and the balance of the reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur to the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council.

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1. Humanitarian needs in Iran rise as 300,000 Afghans arrive since Taliban takeover, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/iran-islamic-republic/humanitarian-needs-iran-rise-300000-afghans-arrive-taliban-takeover>
 - 2 . A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/39/54