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Written statement* submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, 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.

[29 August 2014]

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

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Terrorism; a Threat beyond States' Domestic Security

Terrorism has turned to a complicated issue of today's world due to its anti-human rights and security aspect. Civil institutions look at this phenomenon from the viewpoint of their human rights concerns; but states mostly consider their national security concerns in facing the threat of terrorism. The concern of human rights is beyond the national borders while for states and governments, providing security is an issue limited to the borders of a country. Although governments are the main agents responsible for fighting against terrorism, the conducted counterterrorism measures could not provide a healing for the troubled conscience of the world people and or meet the expectations of the world community in developing an international consensus for a serious fight against terrorism.

This point had a clear manifestation in regards with the reaction of the states towards the events occurring in Syria and Iraq, where terrorist groups couldn't be suppressed due to the weakness of the central governments.

Weakness of the Iraqi and Syrian central governments in facing terrorist groups on one hand and the recruiting of foreign fighters by these groups, on the other hand, led to the worries of many countries in the region and throughout the world including Turkey, Uzbekistan, Chechnya, Tajikistan, Belgium, Australia, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, the United States of America, Spain, Norway, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Persian Gulf countries.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council Resolution 2170, adopted in August 2014 against the terrorist groups of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) and Al-Nusra Front, mainly reflects the concerns of foreign countries from the expansion of the threats of these terrorist groups to other countries, rather than preventing the human tragedy struck Iraq and Syria. This Resolution focuses on impeding, impairing, isolating and incapacitating the terrorist threat posed by ISIL and Al-Nusra. This point implies the same concern of protecting security within national borders upon the return of these fighters to their homelands.

Another example is the Country Reports on Terrorism 2013 of the US Department of State in which the persons travel from the US and Europe to Syria are called as radical and extremist fighters but when they return back to European countries and the United States, they are considered as a "serious terrorist threat".

The concerns of the states, being limited to their own borders, have resulted in the loneliness of each state in fighting against terrorist groups; Iraq and Syria are the clear evidences of this claim, deprived from the collaboration of other governments in suppressing terrorists. The consequence has been severe damages and losses left on the population of these two countries.

On this basis, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism (ADVT), requests the United Nations, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to:

1. Place human rights as a priority in their counterterrorism policies and measures;
2. Adopt a trans-border approach by defining a wider range of binding commitments for countries to support weaker governments which are unable to counter the threat of terrorism within their borders;
3. Design a practical plan for establishing regional and international networks between civil entities for countering terrorism and supporting victims of terrorism. These networks can control the performance of the governments in preserving human rights as well.