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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, 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 2016]

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

GE.16-15141(E)



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Foreign Fighters in Iraq and Syria

The issue of preventing mercenary phenomenon has been discussed in the Human Rights Council for years. It has been raised by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries and later by the working group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of people to self-determination.

Unfortunately, the mercenary phenomenon has casted its ill shadow on Iraq and Syria for more than a decade, leaving countless casualties behind. The ISIS foreign fighters have been making a collection out of the unprecedented crimes committed against the vulnerable civilians of the two countries.

Various forms of heinous crimes have been and are being committed against the civilians including women and children and anyone who disobeys the terrorist's ideological commands. The atrocities include, summary execution, burning alive, rape, torture, selling women and children as slaves, and using children as soldiers and suicide bombers. The crimes which are mostly committed against members of the Yazidi minority are considered by a UN panel as genocide.¹ According to the reports about 19,000 people have died in Iraq in less than 2 years²- about 90 percent of whom³ are Muslims.

ISIS is able to carry on the mentioned killings and crimes benefiting from the available financial sources. The terror group that needs huge financial funds has accepted the generous government or private donations of affluent extremists in the South Persian Gulf region, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait⁴ and the United Arab Emirates⁵.

- Being over-concerned with the ongoing crimes of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria and in line with the Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) on the foreign fighters, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) condemns any recruitment of fighters by ISIS, Al-Nusrah and other associated entities.
- Regarding the ongoing recruitment attempts by terrorists, ODVV echoes the Security Council's call on the States to take practical steps to prevent the flow of foreign fighters at the national level.
- Being concerned about the donations made to the terror group, ODVV also calls on the States to take serious steps to prevent the flow of money toward the terrorists.

Referring to the conclusion made by the UN Panel that considers the crimes committed by ISIS against Yazidis as genocide:

- And as previously urged by our organization and stated in the report of the Special Rapporteur on protection of human rights while countering terrorism, we call on the members of the Security Council to hold urgent consultations to address the crimes committed by ISIS in Iraq and Syria and take more decisive action in this regard.
- ODVV calls on Iraq and Syria to accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the current situation and facilitate the process of bringing human rights perpetrators to justice.
- ODVV recommend an ad hoc tribunal to be established urgently to address the genocide committed by ISIS terrorists.

¹ . <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54247#.V6pcpXGUeSw>

² . <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-death-toll-18-800-killed-iraq-2-years-u-n499426>

³ . <http://www.globalresearch.ca/muslims-are-the-victims-of-between-82-and-97-of-terrorism-related-fatalities-us-government/5516565>

⁴ . <http://europe.newsweek.com/how-does-isis-fund-its-reign-terror-282607?rm=eu>

⁵ . <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/11/18/how-isis-makes-its-money/>

- ODVV also calls on the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues to focus on the situation of religious minority victims of ISIS crimes in Iraq and Syria.
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