



General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Family Health Association of Iran, 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.

[6 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Negative impact of sanction on the health of the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The right to health is one of the fundamental rights of Mankind and all individuals of society must be able to enjoy it. Also all countries must respect and observe this right and endeavour to realise this right for all sectors of society. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.

Imposition of harsh sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran has affected all aspects of the lives of Iranians. Also the impositions of sanctions threaten the health of the people of Iran as one of their citizen's rights.

Countless number of times we have heard western governments say that sanctions do not include medicines and medical equipment; while in practice we see banking sanctions have created many problems. In this regard, the import of medicines and raw materials for medicine producing and medical equipment producing has sharply reduced. On this basis, individuals suffering from diseases and vulnerable groups face the threat of death due to lack of access to medicines.

As well as problems that they cause to the health of the people of Iran, sanctions have prevented the sale of new airplanes and airplane parts to Iran and this has resulted in air travel to be less safe for Iranians, and threatens citizen's right to life.

In addition, sanctions have other terrible effects on the people of Iran. Scientific relations between Iranian organizations and international organizations have reached a minimum due to sanctions and Iranian NGOs such as Family Health Association of Iran as an official member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), cannot conduct executive and scientific projects and receive financial backing from international organizations.

Due to the negative impacts that they have on people's health, economic sanctions as the UN Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures has warned¹ are in fact, full scale wars in hidden ways; because these sanctions cause the deaths of people, but not with bombs and bullets, rather through reduction of health services. All these instances are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights conventions; because all these important documents deem access to health services, medicines, food and vital goods as fundamental rights of all individuals. Therefore international community's and United Nations support for the removal of unjust sanctions imposed against the Iranian people is urgent and vitally important.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23469&LangID=E>