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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.



Violation of Women and Children's Human Rights in Yemen

Humanitarian Law is a set of principles which limit violence during armed conflicts and its aim is to protect individuals who are not directly involved in conflict. These individuals include the sick and injured, prisoners of war and civilians. Nonetheless the human rights of civilians, women and children in particular, are violated during armed conflicts.

Yemen is a country experiencing a human catastrophe, a country that's been suffering from instability, lack of the rule of law, environmental crisis and widespread poverty for years.

According to available figures, women and children's conditions in Yemen are dire and their human rights are not observed. More than 22 million Yemenis need humanitarian assistance (food, water and shelter), 11.3 million people need food and medicine, 7.5 million people urgently require food and health assistance, 2.9 million women and children suffer from malnutrition, and 400 thousand suffer from severe malnutrition. Also according to UNICEF, one child dies every ten minutes in Yemen.

Due to lack of access to health and medical services the mortality rates of mothers, infants and children are sharply on the increase and many women and children, particularly pregnant and nursing women are suffering from malnutrition. Approximately 2 million children are deprived of education and nearly one million children across the county are displaced. These are not just Yemeni women and children's problems. Due to the extensive destruction of Yemeni infrastructures that include water purification plants, Yemenis suffer from lethal diseases such as cholera and diphtheria. 14.5 million (which include 8 million children) do not have access to clean drinking water and this is a factor in the rise in the number of cholera cases in the country.

Big shortage of medicine and medical attention has put children's conditions in dire situation. Various reports in this regard show human catastrophe in Yemen. Hospital wards are critically faced with shortages of equipment and manpower, and children are treated on hospital floors, because there are shortages of beds.

The Family Health Association of Iran which is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and is active on SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), urges the international community and Human Rights Council to pay particular attention towards establishing peace and observation of human rights in Yemen and facilitate access to health and medical services for the people of the country, especially women and children and eliminate all forms of violence against them.
