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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.

[02 June 2019]

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

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Sanctions threaten health of people of the Islamic Republic of Iran

According to the definition of health given by the World Health Organization's constitution, health is simply not only the absence of disease, but can rather be understood as the individual's physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing. In this regard, all governmental and non-governmental organizations must work to promote the health of all people in our societies and in the global community, as emphasized in MDGs and SDGs. Also, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of adequate living for the health and well-being of himself and his family.

The impositions of harsh sanctions threaten the health of the Iranian. Sanctions affected the pre-requisites and health indicators in different fields such as food security, air pollution, difficulty in procuring visas for sending patients overseas and procurement and supply of medicine and medical equipment for pharmaceutical company.

In this regards, individuals suffering from diseases and vulnerable groups face the threat of death due to lack of access to medicines.

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. This issue created many problems for the health of Iranian people.

In conclusion, the sanctions have not only struck a terrible blow to the human rights of Iranian people, they have also indirectly undermined the wellbeing of the global community as a whole.

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 Iranian, 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.

In summary, due to the negative impacts that they have on people's health, economic sanctions 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. In this regards, the role of special rapporteur on the situation of the human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and UN special rapporteur of sanctions are so vital.
