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

Written statement* submitted by The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), 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.

[28 January 2021]

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



Realizing the rights of victims of terrorism

Terrorism is a horrible phenomenon that has always put to death many innocent people in the most heinous way possible. There are many groups around the world that have resorted to terrorist tactics with different motives to advance their own desires and goals and in order to achieve their goals, they have blindly and aimlessly killed innocent people. Today, international terrorism has imposed increasing threats to countries around the world and has taken on new dimensions with the growth of new technologies. In the meantime, the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) is one of the countries that has been repeatedly targeted by organized attacks and terrorist acts. According to official statistics, the number of assassination martyrs in Iran is estimated at 17,000. If we add the number of indirect victims of assassination, ie the survivors and families of the martyrs of the assassination, to the above figure, the number of people targeted will be much higher in Iran.

However, in recent years, the United Nations and its affiliated entities have made significant progress in the fight against terrorism and various conventions have been concluded for the purpose of prosecuting or extraditing criminals, but the fight against the international crime is still considered an important challenge at the international level. In here, we should appreciate and thanked Ms. Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, for her report to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on targeted assassinations via drone strikes, such as assassination of General Suleimani.

It is ethical and necessary to support the victims of terrorism and their families based on promoting the protection and respect for their human rights. One of the primary and obvious effects of terrorist incidents on the victims is the destruction of fundamental human rights and freedoms that need to be repaired and rehabilitated. In fact, today the communities of victims of terrorism need an international source with a protectionist view of human rights that to fulfil the mission of realizing the rights of the victims of terrorism. In this regard, we can refer to the prosecution of the perpetrators of terrorist acts as a right of the people of a country to the issue of "damage to human rights". The aim of this action is to "restore the human dignity of the victims of terrorism" and compensate the souls of families and respond to the "conscience of terrified humanity" from the act of terrorism and find a way to ensure that these crimes are not repeated. Secondly, the realization of rights for victims of terrorism will require an international consensus and acceptance on the creation of an independent international document that can provide the formal structure and layout of this issue. In the next step, it requires the necessary tools, namely the establishment of institutions with the participation of governments and international human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Institutions such as the Women's Rehabilitation Organization, children victims of terrorism, communities affected by terrorism, etc., which operate separately under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), as a non-governmental organization with the approach of supporting the families of victims of terrorism, pursues the rights of victims of terrorism. It believes that NGOs, given the mission on which they are built, have missions that the results of these missions will lead to the establishment and expansion of human security which have broad capacities to participate in restoring the rights of victims of terrorism internationally.

At this juncture, UN mechanisms are useful and appropriate tool for victims of terrorism to use the UN's capacity to prevent and prosecute such inhumane acts. On the other hand, the United Nations and the world's human rights institutions must also stand with the people affected by terrorism and confront with brutal inhuman behavior with the utmost determination.

We also urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to use all mechanisms to work with countries and human rights NGOs to combat terrorism and the realization of the rights of victims of terrorism.