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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 Organisation for Defending Victims of Violence
(ODVV), 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.

[18 February 2008]

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

Human Trafficking, Violation of Human Rights

The human trafficking problem and the networks that violate human rights, indicates that the problem is one of the most difficult issues regarding mankind's international law.

As an organized crime, human trafficking is the third most profitable illegal trade after drugs trafficking and arms smuggling, and is fast growing in different countries. Related problems such as slavery, prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, racial discrimination, illegal migration, money laundering, HIV/AIDS, domestic servants, have all turned human trafficking into one of the most terrible issues at national and international levels in the 21st Century.

The international community has ratified various laws and regulations to prevent and fight human trafficking.

In the preamble of the protocol to the Human Trafficking Prevention Convention, concern has been expressed in the lack of a comprehensive and enforceable international document to prevent trafficking in humans, women and children in particular.

Women and children are more in danger of trafficking and are bought and sold as slaves, in such way that four centuries of slavery has enslaved 11 million women and children, while in just under a decade, 30 million women and children alone have been trafficked from South-east Asian countries to the west.

As a crime that is not limited to within the borders of a country, human trafficking requires the all-sided confrontation at the international level to control this phenomenon. Since as one of the international community's problems that in some places is a major problem and in others a small problem, one country alone cannot fight this social phenomenon. The failure of countries in fighting human trafficking will result in the expansion and growth of this problem, and as a result other countries shall feel its effects. There aren't many countries today that are not the origin, transit or destination of human trafficking.

Despite the ratification of various conventions and protocols such as the Convention on the Fight against Organized Crime and its additional protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child additional protocol, and also the campaigns of nongovernmental and international organizations, we still witness the growth of the human trafficking phenomenon.

As a nongovernmental organization active in the field of human rights, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) sees human trafficking as modern slavery and blatant violation of human rights, and believes that the prevention and fight against this problem requires particular attention from the UN and Human Rights Council.

Factors in bringing about human trafficking such as, economic problems and its natural consequences such as inflation, unemployment, poverty, violence and their effects such as insecurity, social crises, increased social problems, all indicate the complexity of the nature of trafficking, and requires national and international cooperation in various social, economic and cultural levels to confront the problem.

States' policies and programs and the ratification of practical laws to fight this phenomenon and joining related conventions and their protocols are some of the ways to reduce this problem. Therefore encouraging states to ratify laws and join international conventions can be effective in the prevention and control of human trafficking.

Having long borders with seven countries, Iran is not immune from this phenomenon, although it must be said that compared with other countries, the human trafficking figures in Iran are relatively low. Nevertheless, the society and NGOs have become very concerned and sensitive on the issue.

The ODVV believes that the implementation of international laws on trafficking must not be limited to legal measures, but policies and programs to reduce trafficking in women and children must be comprehensive and universal, and stress must be made on the prevention of this phenomenon through all-sided campaigns. Also the provision of credit to increase women's capabilities, education of society, and support for the victims for their re-emergence back into society are all effective measures where the United Nations can play a role in the reduction of human trafficking.
