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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
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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 Organization 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.

[27 August 2009]

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

Due to their age, children need the special protection of the government, family and society. This important factor made the international human rights mechanism to right from its outset to pay particular attention to the observation and promotion of children's rights. The most important of these efforts appeared in the form of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This Convention which has the most signatories, calls upon all state parties to adopt all legal, judicial and executive measures to observe children's best interests at the highest level and include these measures at the top of their objectives.

1. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) expresses its deepest concern that despite daily increasing efforts of the UN, the realisation of children's rights across the world is faced with numerous problems and challenges particularly in the following instances:

- Deprivation of 75 million children from the opportunity to attend school, particularly due to lack of financial resources, lack of enough schools and teachers, the destruction of schools in natural disasters etc.
- 218 million children aged between 5 and 17 working across the world, 126 million of them working in dangerous jobs and 22 million alone living in Asia and Oceania.
- Deprivation of 125 million children under 5 from access to clean drinking water.
- The deepening and spread of violence against children particularly in the form of domestic violence, sexual abuse, domestic murders, corporal punishment, neglect, child marriages, damaging traditional customs such as genital mutilation of girls, and also the use of children in pornography and trafficking.
- Rise in the number of children under the age of 18 conscripted into armed forces and the direct participation of children under 15 in armed conflicts, and thus their denial of the right to education and health.

2. While expressing its concerns regarding the aforementioned, the ODVV calls upon UN member states, UN agencies and technical workgroups, nongovernmental organizations to carry out the following in line with the realisation of children's rights:

- Adoption of all effective and immediate measures with the aim of prevention of violence against children, the investigation and prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, victims' support, the observation of prohibition on the exploitation of children and particularly provision of legal, psychological and social assistance, setting up of rehabilitation centres with the aim of the reintegration children victims of violence and armed conflict back into society and the nurture of their inborn talents.
- Adoption of all effective measures with the aim of guaranteeing the prohibition on the direct involvement of children under 15 in domestic and international armed conflicts.
- Adoption of all measures with the aim of the eradication of child labour and particularly elimination of the worst forms of child labour, particularly in developing countries.

- Efforts for the reduction of child mortality rates (under 5 years) that occur as a result of lack of health facilities that include health care centres in rural regions and access to clean drinking water and a sewage system.

Finally, let us all remember that without serious international consensus and cooperation for the realisation of children's rights all over the world, international peace and security will not be realised.

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