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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic 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.

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

Double-standards

The popular movement Tsunami of the Muslim peoples of the Middle East and North Africa region which started from Tunisia, and reached Egypt till the fall of Hosni Mubarak and his and even his children's trial made its appearance in one way or another in Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in various forms. The reaction of the Arab rulers of the region was naturally that of crackdowns and strong resistance which to date in some countries such as Egypt and Yemen resulted in the overthrow of dictators. In some other countries such as Bahrain it has become a strong challenge between the dictators in power with the support of the Saudi regime on one hand and the strong popular resistance on the other hand, which despite the wave of arrests, detentions, tortures, abuses and martyrdoms the people's will and determination in changing an illegitimate regime has not faltered.

What has the west's approach been towards these movements? Do these oppressed people not want nothing but their human rights, and because of this they have faced brutal reactions, have been supported by the human rights advocates in the west? Or due to dependencies of these rules to the west, these western countries opt to remain silent instead of condemning these crimes, even direct and indirect support for dictatorships are in their working agendas?

Clearly the working agenda with regards to Libya was a blatant military intervention. The events unfolding in Libya are not the challenges of the people who are tired of Gaddafi's regime and have risen against this dictator for life, but it is the military intervention of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the pretext of protection of the people of Libya against military attacks by Gaddafi's forces. In the initial days of the NATO attacks despite the west's propaganda machinery lies in justification of military intervention to bring Gaddafi down to his knees in the short run, it became clear that the support for the Libyan people was just an excuse for military presence in the country so that the west gets its foothold, in other words to take over the oil wells of Libya and more importantly to control the Arab world and the changes process in the Middle East.

Right now though a number of questions arise with regards to NATO intervention in Libya and its consequences and prices of this intervention which have been proposed by world public opinion:

- Despite US and British officials' claims who lead the military operations in Libya, this intervention not only has not provided the human rights and interests of the people of Libya but these extensive military operations have endangered the material and economic facilities of Libya more than Gaddafi's forces. In this case what justifications does the continuation of the military operations in Libya? Is Libya with its large population and vast natural and economic resources to be destroyed by NATO and Gaddafi forces? Is this practice in Libya in line with the realization of human rights to which western powers put a claim on?
- Are military operations which usually end up in the occupation of countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan are in line with the realization of human rights positive steps or are they in practice the beginning of the violation of human rights in these countries in a catastrophic scale? The Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the recent killings of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan most of which were women and children are clear examples of the human rights claims of the occupying west which have been implemented in these countries. Are we to see a repeat of this scenario in Libya?
- Don't the people of the region who are battling dictatorial regimes who are linked to the west not count as human beings? And shouldn't something be done for their rights that are violated in the worst forms? Why does the west in the case of Bahrain

openly support the illegitimate Al Khalifa regime, and even orders its regional ally Saudi Arabia to assist the Bahrain regime in cracking down on the people, and even at the same time starts a military campaign in support of the Libyan people? According to American writer Andrew Murray “in the view point of western human rights advocates, some individuals are more important and valuable than others.” He continues on, “Of course it is not human lives that are important, but it’s the superiority of the west that has top priority.”

- Right from the outset of NATO’s military intervention in Libya, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said, “British military operations in Libya are far less costly than humanitarian aid to Libya.” Isn’t this statement which is the political viewpoint of the west not ridiculous, to show the military intervention of Britain in Libya which is cost effective as something logical? Is this statement which for the British is also a blatant lie, if correct, pertinent for the Libyan people?
- Following the unforgettable display of the observation of human rights, British Prime Minister David Cameron by claiming strange claims said that the source of recent British riots is human rights, and has promised to review the situation soon after his country’s turn as EU’s president. This is while human rights is used as a pressure lever for countries such as Iran on the side of the domineering west have been as final words which cannot be damaged. This statement means that if until today the west had been exploiting human rights and its examples and or violation in some countries, from now on will openly change and alter human rights towards the realization of its inhuman interests. In this event can human rights be a winning weapon for the extensive propaganda machinery with the violators and opponents of west’s domineering policies?

Ultimately it must be said that today the world public opinion cannot turn a blind eye towards the double standards policies of the west in its approach to human rights and continuation of its violation, and let human rights become exploitation tools for the west to secure its illegitimate interests in various parts of the world.

It seems the time has come for independent countries and aware nations of the world to take united step for not only defining and protecting human rights and determining their concept and examples, but to practically realize and collective and universal measures be taken so that the way is closed for any form of exploitation of these rights, and ultimately the lever that is in the hands of powers who commit heinous crimes in the name of protecting human rights to be taken from them. Let us hope this happens.
