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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Iranian Thalassemia Society, 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.

[31 January 2021]

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



The impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on patients with thalassemia in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Right at the beginning of May 5, 2018, when the children and adolescents of the Iranians suffering from thalassemia were resting in their sleep in the hope of a better tomorrow, a black chapter, of a different kind, appeared in the history of human genocide tragedies. Sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) were imposed under false pretexts, contrary to the Security Council Resolution and the order of the judges of the International Court of Justice, and, consequently, unpleasant events took place among 23,000 thalassemia patients of the country.

Yes, we do not believe that a country, so softly, by abusing global trust, plans and executes the direct massacre of the weakest and most deprived sections of society on such a large scale. Enactment and enforcement of extensive sanctions, indiscriminately, cruelly lethal, contrary to the specific and general obligations of international law and even the fundamental and binding obligations of human rights were violated. To date, 170 thalassemia patients have died from drug and medical equipment embargoes.

Lack of access to vital medicines and proper medical equipment has caused the death of more than 170 thalassemia patients in Iran in the last two years, causing severe and irreparable damages to 7,000 of those patients, and, currently, 23,000 of the patients are still at risk of death.

Thalassemia patients around the world, prescribed by specialists and physicians, must take lifelong iron-depleting drugs to control high iron in their bodies due to the constant use of blood products. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the existing sanctions, this vital treatment has been endangered and has caused many deaths and reduced quality of life of the patients suffering from this disease.

Although the government of the United States of America (US) claims that medicine, food and transportation are not under sanction, but in practice, by banning banking transactions, enacting extraterrestrial laws, imposing illegal sanctions and creating an atmosphere of doubt, fear and revenge, the United States of America is practically inflicting a fatal blow to the weak body of our thalassemia patients.

The Iranian Thalassemia Association declares a state of emergency regarding the widespread violation of human rights, the violation of the right to life of patients in need of lifelong treatment, and the infliction of widespread physical and mental pain and suffering on lifelong patients and their families. This situation is the result of the US unilateral coercive measures and in violation of the US commitments before the international law, which has caused great suffering and serious damages to the physical and mental health of the civilian population, as part of a widespread and organized attack. The Association calls for special urgent measures to be taken to combat this crime against humanity and the immediate lifting of sanctions designed against patients and people in need of assistance, as well as to investigate the dimensions of this crime, and to send immediate global first aid to control the damage caused by two years of organized crimes against thalassemia patients of Iran.
