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Written statement submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, 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.

[26 January 2026]

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

The Story of Continued Aggression against Iran

At the 60th session of the Human Rights Council, the Iranian people had just been subjected to a 12-day war coerced against them by Israel and the United States of America. Israeli forces carried out strikes on Iranian territory targeting Iranian commanders, nuclear facilities, and even civilian infrastructure. Israeli strikes affected 18 of Iran's 31 provinces, causing widespread destruction, and tens of thousands of Iranian civilians were displaced while more than a thousand civilians were brutally killed. This constituted a clear act of aggression and a violation of jus ad bellum which was undisputedly in the absence of any prior armed attack by Iran. This use of force by Israel against Iran was a flagrant violation under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any Member State of the UN.

At 60th session of the HRC—considering the imposed situation— we noted with grave concern that the actions of Israel and the subsequent involvement of the U.S Government flagrantly violated fundamental principles of international law, in particular, international human rights law and international humanitarian law inflicting immense suffering on civilians and also risked the international order based upon the UN charter; These concerns have continued and have become more serious over time.

While Israeli-American plan aimed at the total annihilation of Iranian nation was faced with the steadfastness and unity of them, they shifted to “Plan B”: internal aggression, during the peaceful protests of Iranians.

In June 2025, after twelve-day coercive military war against Iran, the phase of economic warfare began. While Iran was dealing with the destruction costs of the military and civilian infrastructures which necessitated the diversion of fundamental resources, -causing serious effects on Iranian daily life- the UN sanctions which were unlawfully reinforced (at the time they were supposed to be permanently lifted) made the situation even worse. The cumulative effect of these events caused high inflation, shortages in the supply of foreign currency and an increase in the cost of the living which led to the peaceful protests by the end of December 2025, in a legitimate and protected manner.

However, on the night of the 8 and 9 of January everything has changed. Following the call for mobilization by Iranian oppositions, armed terrorist groups mingled with the protesters and under the guise of protesters took the streets. These organized groups, provided with military training and equipment, killed and injured civilians and police, demolished and burned people's houses, cars, shops and also mosques, and by directly opening fire on civilians and security forces, causing the deaths of huge number of civilians and security personnel including many children. These terrorist attacks were supported and facilitated by the same aggressors of the 12-day war, namely the United States of America and Israel. President Donald Trump, in posts on X, not only supported these terrorists and their actions, but also threatened Iran to get involved if it decides to suppress them. A few days after the terroristic actions which killed horrifically thousands of civilians and law enforcement officers, he also urged them to continue their actions by asserting that: “keep protesting... help is on the way”. Mossad's role has also been confirmed by some current and former officials of the United States and Israel. namely Mike Pompeo, Lindsey Graham and Benjamin Netanyahu. As the Iranian Foreign Minister asserted: “With blood on our streets, Israel is explicitly gloating about having armed protestors with live weapons and this is the reason for the hundreds of dead”. (1) The role of separatist armed groups who are mostly backed by Israel and its intelligence services, were also apparent by the blatant summoning issued in days leading to the 8th and 9th of January, confirming the transformation of the peaceful protests to armed insurgency.

The attacks on civilians and security forces constituted the second phase of the 12-day war which was launched by Israel and accompanied by the United States; These unlawful attempts by these countries violated international law in different ways:

- Islamic Republic of Iran has been chosen by the revolution of the people of Iran against Pahlavi dynasty. Now, its government is based on the will of the people, determined through periodic elections, the attempts by the United States of America and Israel to overthrow the State which is backed by the nation, firmly violates the right to self-determination of the Iranian people and the obligation which prohibits the intervention in domestic affairs of the sovereign states stipulated in Article 2(7) of the UN charter; The overt support provided to the son of the dethroned Shah, in defiance of Iran's legitimate Government, reflects a disregard for the Iranian nation and its right to political self-determination.

- The financing and use of mercenaries to undermine the security of the nation, kill and assassinate civilians and police forces, burn and demolish the private, public and sacred assets and spread terror among the nation, violates different legal obligations including the international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, Security council resolutions 1368 and 1373, and The International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (1989), which prohibits states from recruiting, financing, or employing mercenaries and criminalizes mercenary activities under domestic law.

- Under Article 3(g) of General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX), the sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars, or mercenaries constitutes an act of aggression and therefore amounts to a violation of the customary prohibition on the use of force, enshrined in Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, enabling the inherent right to self-defense by the defending state.

- These direct and indirect assaults by the US and Israel are also against the principles of the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations (1970).

This sequence of events demonstrates a sustained pattern of military, economic, and indirect coercion against Iran, amounting to a composite violation of fundamental norms of international law. The use of force, the facilitation of armed groups, and interference in Iran's internal affairs collectively breach the prohibitions enshrined in the UN Charter and relevant international instruments. Such conduct not only undermines the sovereignty and self-determination of the Iranian people but also poses a serious threat to the international legal order founded on the rule of law.

1- Araghchi: Israel proudly and loudly confesses to arming Iranian protestors - IRNA English