



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

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In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

No. 103824

6 August 2018

Dear Mr. Andrew Gilmour,

The illegal and inhumane unilateral sanctions imposed and augmented by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran have seriously affected the well-being of all Iranians, in particular, the most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly and those in need of medical attention. The sanctions victimize civilians and target their access to basic healthcare services, medicine, food and education. They amount to the collective punishment of civilians in abject defiance of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

Similar measures in the past have left horrifying civilian casualties. Based on reliable accounts, sanctions have killed more children than did any war or armed conflict. Unilateral sanctions disproportionately harm the vulnerable populations of the targeted countries. Unfortunately, the UN human rights mechanisms have yet to express their position in condemnation of, or even reaction to, the imposition of recent US illegal sanctions against Iranians following US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA).

By recalling the General Assembly resolution 72/168 entitled "*human rights and unilateral coercive measures*", in particular its paragraphs 13, 22 and 23, and the GA resolution 72/201 entitled "*unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries*" in particular its paragraphs 3 and 4, the Islamic Republic of Iran urges all relevant Human Rights Council mandate holders and the High Commissioner to pronounce themselves openly and clearly on the impact of the US unilateral sanction on civilians, especially peoples in vulnerable situations and their human rights, including through issuance of independent and/or joint statements.

It is widely expected that the UN human rights mechanisms stand for the principles of international law, including respect for multilateralism. Following the untenable exit of the U.S. from the JCPOA - on a trail of similar irresponsible behaviors - the U.S. authorities are, on a daily basis, threatening Iranians with the "strongest sanctions in history". The United Nations and its human rights mechanisms have a clear responsibility in confronting and condemning such threats that violate and endanger all of the basic human rights of all Iranians. Their ongoing silence is not justifiable and incomprehensible.




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The Islamic Republic of Iran, herewith, once again reiterates its invitation to the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to visit the country to assess the impacts of the US unilateral sanctions. Iran also requests the High Commissioner to initiate a mechanism to investigate the impacts of unilateral sanctions on the human rights of civilians, with a view to redressing them and compensating the victims.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.


Gholamali Khoshroo
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Andrew Gilmour
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
to the United Nations
New York