Iranian NGOs’ Network\(^1\) statement on
The US government unilateral and coercive measures
Against Iranian people
22 September 2018. Tehran

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The US government withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 8\(^{th}\) May 2018 which was illegitimate and against international commitments, and treats on enforcement of unilateral and inhuman sanctions against ordinary people, has been resulted in concerning impacts on public and particularly vulnerable groups of society in Iran. This is while enforcement of inhuman sanctions on ordinary people of Iran is against United Nation and Human Rights Council resolutions, and is an obvious violation of Human Rights.\(^2\) Unilateral coercive measures which have directly impacted basic rights of Iranian people for health, dignified life and development in all its legal dimension. Besides, with regard to the last report of “United Nations Special Rapporteur” Mr. Idriss Jaziry, negative impacts of unilateral sanctions only target innocent people and is an economic war in peacetime without the protection of Geneva Conventions aimed at safeguarding civilians in war time.\(^3\)

Signers of this statement who are representatives of a group of Iranian NGOs express their concern, based on their daily observations with vulnerable groups, on suffer and pain of vulnerable groups are massively hit by sanction and shortage of daily essentials which has been exacerbated due to structural pressures enforced by US Government recently. We urge global public opinion, independent states, Non-Governmental human right organization and individual activists to consider adverse impacts of treats and measure undertaken by the US Government on basic rights and dignified life of ordinary citizens of Iran.

Adverse impacts which are against international commitments, have not only harmed right to life of ordinary citizens in Iran but also treats health and safety of people suffering from special and chronic diseases and has slipped extreme vulnerable and low income group as well as millions of Afghan refugees and migrants living in Iran to more economic hardship following closing of the factories, decrease in salaries and significant increase of living costs.\(^4\)

\(^{1}\) Iranian NGO’s Network (more than 150 Iranian charities and NGO’s
Although the international community has made regulations for classical wars to safeguard civilians life particularly children, elderly and people with health issues from any military threat and abuse, and defined attack on health and education centers and ordinary peoples’ living houses as war crimes, unfortunately there is no regulations for comprehensive sanctions as a hidden war tool against ordinary people. The international community has not made any legal framework for such crimes, with no attention to the fact that in such battles it is just ordinary people who are attacked and are at risk of irrecoverable injuries with no bullet to be fired. Attacks which first target are children, elderly and people suffering from different chronic and special disease and other vulnerable groups.  

There are progressive limitations on access to medicine and medical equipment needed by people in Iran, while the US Department of the Treasury claimed sanctions won’t and have not targeted food and medicine directly. The fact is sanctions on Iranian banking system and Iranian people and imposing lots of obstacles to get revenues legally have paved the way for making a tragedy which direct victims are the most vulnerable people living in Iran.  

The signatories of this statement express their deep regret on structural ignorance of ordinary people basic rights in Iran through US government and urge global public opinion to judge and try to find a response to the question that in today civilized world with lots of international peaceful, humanitarian and anticrime regulations, how such obvious ignorance of international regulations take place? And why the ordinary people of a country are deprived of their rights on access to food, medicine and medical treatments and suffer an early death, disability and never ended suffers in a shadow of this unwanted and hidden war?  

This is an opportunity to urge people of the world and independent governments committed to United Nations objectives to spread sustainable peace and avoid any kind of conflict of war and violence, to join and stand with us against a doctrine leading the unstable world to another fire. The fire which greatest material and spiritual treats are to the destruction of human values through measures which have targeted kindness and humanity for all race and nationalities.

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https://www.euronews.com/2018/08/03/what-will-change-after-us-sanctions-on-iran-come-into-force-
The signatories of this statement as representative of Iranian civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations are grateful for the efforts of the states, international organizations and civil society to enforce sustainable and comprehensive peace and tackle unjust sanctions on ordinary citizens of Iran and appeal to their ongoing and comprehensive support to stop the controversy the warmongers in US Government are spreading against nations to reach to their short term interests.

Suggestions:

- The US unilateral and comprehensive sanctions are a violation of basic human rights of Iranian people. The US government recent measure to withdraw the international agreements and treat to international judicial systems can make the international communities’ achievements after two destructive World Wars in danger. So it is necessary the International community and world peacekeepers make their efforts to safeguard human dignities from any discrimination.

- Structural deprivation of Iranian people from access to medicines, medical equipment, and food and resulted disability and death of people suffering from health issues, the hunger of women and children in vulnerable groups of society are clear violence of human rights values and international humanitarian commitments which needs international prompt and comprehensive reaction.

- Beside Iranians, there are millions of Afghan refugees and migrants who not only see no way to return to their country due to ongoing and increasing armed conflict and unstable security in Afghanistan, but the strict policies of the west have also limited their opportunities to resettle in western countries. Therefore, these millions of people are also targeted and suffering the negative impacts of the US comprehensive sanction against Iran.

- Studying sanctions enforced by the US government against different nations in the last decades shows its negative impacts on people instead of any restrictive policy on governments. The impacts which outcome suffers people particularly women and children after several decades. Therefore, it is necessary with support of all experts in the world to prevent another humanitarian tragedy to take place in the region.

CC:

- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees