*Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)*

**Third session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law on “Equal access to justice for all: a necessary element of democracy, rule of law and human rights protection” (16-17 Nov. 2021)**

**A UN Mechanism Needed to Address the Losses of UCMs Victims**

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) draws the attention of the Forum to the negative effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on the international rule of law and their “external threats to democracy”[[1]](#footnote-1) of the target counties.

Comprehensive sanctions that are considered as “economic warfare”, “de-facto blockades”[[2]](#footnote-2), “collective punishment”[[3]](#footnote-3) and a form of “crime against humanity”[[4]](#footnote-4) by some UN experts, continue to extensively violate all economic, social and cultural rights of millions of people in sanctioned countries, including the right to life and the right to health.

Considering the fact that UCMs are condemned and considered illegal by the UN SG[[5]](#footnote-5), the UN HC[[6]](#footnote-6), the Special Rapporteurs[[7]](#footnote-7), UN reports and UN resolutions[[8]](#footnote-8), ODVV calls for a mechanism to be established to compensate for all the systematic human rights violations conducted through UCMs, including the widespread violations of the right to life and the right to health during the pandemic, so that the forgotten UCM victims can have access to justice as well as adequate remedy and redress.

Also, ODVV calls on the Forum to find solutions for the UN so that it can stand against unilateralism and unilateral human rights violations in order to strengthen democracy, the international the rule of law and a democratic international order.

1. . https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/RuleOfLaw/GuidanceNoteOnDemocracy.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . A/HRC/39/54, A/HRC/42/46 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/39/54 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . A/HRC/39/47/Add.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . [Secretary-General Urges G20 Countries to Suppress COVID-19 Transmission](https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm20024.doc.htm) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . [Bachelet calls for easing of sanctions to enable medical systems to fight COVID-19 and limit global contagion](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25744&LangID=E); [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . e.g., [Sanctions proving deadly during COVID pandemic, humanitarian exemptions not working](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E); [Over-compliance with US sanctions harms Iranians’ right to health](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27665&LangID=E) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. . e.g., Reports: A/HRC/48/59; A/HRC/48/59/Add.2; A/HRC/45/7; A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/36/44; A/HRC/33/48

   Resolutions: A/HRC/RES/24/14; A/HRC/RES/30/2; A/HRC/RES/34/13; A/RES/71/193; A/HRC/RES/46/5 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)