*****Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)***

**ODVV reply to the call for inputs, "A place to live in dignity for all: Make housing affordable", issued by, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, to inform his report to the 78th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to be presented in October 2023**

**Q: What happens when you cannot buy your own house?**

**A:** Housing is deemed as the driving engine of the economy, that is, growth in the housing sector leads to an increase in production in other fields. Furthermore, recession in the housing sector impacts recession in the production sector and reduces economic growth. Now, people who live in the countries under unilateral coercive measures (UCM)s or economic sanctions, face multiple challenges including in the housing sector and the right to enjoyment of adequate housing.

Sanctioned countries suffer infrastructure issues following the complications in the economic exchanges with the global market, because sanctions slow down or completely stop inter-banking transactions across the world which is a very important and determining factor in countries’ economies.

Housing, its suitable preparation and provision for the people, is linked to sanctions. Sanctions affect the land value and all construction materials. Under sanctions, some people make investments in the housing sector to preserve the value of their money against the devaluation of national currency, which leads to increase in the price of houses.

Furthermore, the drop in the value of the national currency of sanctioned countries or increase in the value of foreign currencies result in the rise of the cost of construction materials such as cement, steel and reinforcing bars, and a raise in construction workers' wages which increases the construction costs. Therefore, low income families will not afford to live in the minimum suitable homes due to economic problems and inflation rates. Continuation of this trend will start other problems for the countries under sanctions.

Considering the negative impact of sanctions on the affordability of housing in sanctioned countries, we call on the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing to discuss the impact of sanctions as a serious impediment on access to suitable housing in sanctioned countries and offer recommendations on how to mitigate such continuous effects.