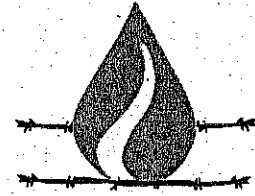


**Item 3: Biennale Panel on Unilateral Coercive Measures**

M.R. Golshanzhoo



Organization for Defending  
Victims of Violence

**Mr. President**

In 2006, the Secretary-General outlined four elements to improve the fairness and transparency of the sanctions procedures: the right to be informed; the right to be heard; the right to be reviewed by an effective review mechanism; and the need for periodic reviews. Unfortunately not only these elements have not been exercised properly yet on most of the U.N. sanctions regimes, but also they seem to be completely forgotten and ignored when we speak about unilateral coercive measures.

According to UN documents, sanctions should not target civilians<sup>1</sup>, but in the case of economic sanctions imposed on Iran, the criteria was not observed. Instead, the sanctions targeted the most vulnerable people in the society including the patients.

Despite the reached agreement in nuclear talks which is supposed to result in removal of economic sanctions, Iranian people especially the patients have been suffering from the adverse consequences for years now which is a too long period of time for those who are tolerating chronic diseases. Medicine was supposed to exempt from the sanctions but in practice it is not.

**Mr. President, Distinguished Panelists,**

Sanctions aggravate imbalances in income distribution, hamper the process of development, weaken civil society organizations, ban foreign financial humanitarian aids, generate unethical businesses, affect the most vulnerable people and in the long run ruin the infrastructures of societies.

All these sufferings occur in spite of the fact that human rights are guaranteed in international bill of rights and must be removed from political agenda of states who impose unilateral coercive measures on others.

My organization considers sanctions as a systematic violation of human rights and urges the Human Rights Council to make every effort to protect the human rights of the Iranian civilians and remove all economic sanctions imposed on Iran.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/WCM/MarcBossuyt\\_WorkshopUnilateralCoerciveSeminar.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/WCM/MarcBossuyt_WorkshopUnilateralCoerciveSeminar.pdf)