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**Oral Intervention Before the CRPD Committee**

Persons with disabilities in the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa Region have unfortunately never been allocated their proper social placement. Most disability laws talk about the health care of people with disabilities, their rehabilitation, education, employment and so on, but do not consider them as their own inalienable rights. The majority of disability laws in Arab states deal with such matters as needs and services. Inclusive education, for example, is still proceeding in a faltering manner despite the fact that nineteen Arab states have already ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which stipulates that education shall be inclusive, and lays the basis of how to apply inclusion. Health care has been revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic to be not so efficiently accessible to, and comprehensive of persons with disabilities. Arab persons with disabilities made it clear that they have not been included properly in media and information campaigns instructing people how to keep safe even if they remain housebound. No sign language was used in awareness raising campaigns. No specific instructions explaining the real dangers encountering persons with disabilities have been designed to be included in the media campaigns run by governments and even by many social networks. Even the rare, short and not detailed video clips specifically directed to persons with disabilities have been late to appear

The region is rife with armed conflicts, and many of its countries suffer a great deal of infighting or internal tension. Persons with disabilities are not taken into consideration by fighting factions. Nobody talks of females with disabilities being the victims of negligence and rape in cases of factional fighting. There is no need to name countries and situations of risk to give examples. When a tragically destructive earthquake struck Turkey and Syria last month, media in the Levant have become occupied with raising awareness of how people try to protect themselves in such emergencies. However, persons with disabilities have never been mentioned, and no instructions have been given as how to help them or they may help themselves. In some cases, parents may not feel the urgency of caring for disabled children in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. After the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006, the National Association for the Rights of Disabled People carried out a survey to see how persons with disabilities have been treated in evacuation and provision of shelter. A man bluntly expressed his regret for having been obliged to evacuate his disabled daughter and leave back his cow at home when they fled the bombardment and armed clashes.

The interpretation of article 11 need to focus on the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. It has to make clear that laws have to be extremely strict on taking care of persons with disabilities in normal times as well as in situations of risk. There is a need to detail ways of caring for persons with disabilities. Not only they make up the largest social minority in the different countries of the world. They also are human beings and real assets for their own communities. It is necessary to explain that persons with disabilities will never be justly and properly treated in humanitarian emergencies unless they are properly and consistently granted their rights and treated well in times of calm and normalcy.