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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Supporting Victims of Terrorism*

Peace is not the Absence of Terrorism, but the Presence of Justice. During the second half of the twentieth century many countries in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia confronted movements of the most diverse kinds that had in common the willingness to resort to the use of violence against innocent civilians to obtain their goals. In some, the victims were numbered in the tens of thousands.

Every year, acts of terrorism kill, injure and harm thousands of innocent victims of all races, cultures and religious beliefs all over the world. Acts of terrorism which, by their very nature, strike innocent victims are not a new phenomenon and they have always posed a challenge to bodies of law whose objective is the protection of the safety and dignity of individuals.

Terrorism is prohibited under the Geneva Conventions, and is defined as a war crime within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). Although not expressly defined in the Statute for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the ICTY prosecuted terrorism as a war crime; a “specific prohibition within the general prohibition of attack on civilians.” In *Prosecutor v. Galic*, the ICTY Trial Chamber convicted Stanislav Galic, commander of Serbian forces that carried out a protracted sniping and bombing campaign on the city of Sarajevo, of the war crime of terrorism.

The situation in recent years highlighted the need for more serious consideration. The world witnessed many terrorist attacks which affect both on the victims themselves, and on their families and society as a whole.

Terrorism is condemned as a serious violation of basic human rights, and the vital importance of granting legal status to victims was underscored. It is one of the threats against which the international community, above all States, must protect their citizens.

Therefore as the security council resolution 1456, the States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, and should adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights in a message wrote: “We need to ensure that innocent people do not become the victims of counterterrorism measures. We need commitment to a unifying framework that is grounded in the harmony of common values, common standards, and common obligations to uphold universal rights.

It is that framework which defines us as one global community and which enables us to reach beyond our differences.”

So we urge Human rights council to recall the member states:

- Ensure that victims of terrorism are treated with dignity and that their rights are recognized and protected.
- Consider establishing ad hoc structures to complement investigative work on terrorist cases, ensure that findings were shared regularly with victims of terrorism
- Establish easily accessible health services that can provide victims with comprehensive support over the short, medium and long term
- Create an international rapid response team for victims’ support
- Engage in a global awareness campaign supporting victims of terrorism

*International Society for Supporting Victims of Terrorism (ISSVT), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.