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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 Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non- governmental organization 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.

[22 August 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

Politically motivated disinformation, false and fabricated allegations, and their impact on international decision-making

The report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression submitted to the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, she indicated that the negative impact of disinformation is undeniable and must be addressed. International Human Rights law provides a powerful counter and framework for formulating remedies, and those states should not make, sponsored, encourage or disseminate statements that they know or reasonably assume to be false....” and state disinformation campaigns must be addressed by state-sponsored actors to residents of other states.

In her report, she also referred to "the importance of opening a dialogue with the concerned authorities, including Member States, companies and civil society to further refine the results and recommendations and follow up on their implementation. It also stressed that "it is the duty of states in the first place to respect, protect and fulfill human rights." and this is in line with its commitment to respect human rights,

In recent years we have seen a growing global concern around the world about the spread of misinformation, as many countries have taken measures to combat information, especially as the spread of misinformation has increased dramatically. In the case of COVID-19, misinformation can be just as deadly as viruses.

Likewise, disinformation can spread quickly and widely through satellite channels, the internet, and social media on political, social and human rights issues, causing the so-called destructive information epidemic, divisive, discriminatory, hateful and violent feelings, and reflects a distorted picture of reality.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, the facts and events have proven the close relationship between political Islam and terrorist groups, and that the content and objectives of disinformation broadcast by the Muslim Brotherhood through their satellite channels and social media have become an integral part of their campaigns aimed at controlling governance and declaring the Islamic caliphate.

Thus, the background, danger, objectives, and dimensions of media misinformation emitted from the countries of the Middle East and North Africa become clear to us, as events have shown that the Muslim Brotherhood has proven its superior ability as an influential non-state actor In the field disinformation, which has exceeded the speed of its spread and the nature of its content and has become a major and attractive factor for the recruitment of young people by terrorist groups, which fuels conflicts and fuels political rivalries and sectarian divisions in many Arab countries.

The Muslim Brotherhood has already succeeded in having a widespread presence on the Internet from their satellite channels and thousands of anonymous accounts in social media that have become a major means of disinformation, promotion, mobilization and recruitment, attracting young people towards extremist ideology that has led to a debilitating civil war led by Brotherhood militias, as happened in the Arab Republic of Egypt (Sinai), the State of Libya and the Republic of Yemen, where the disinformation carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood played a prominent role in making the State of Libya and the Republic of Yemen a safe haven for terrorist groups, and the same applies to Tunisia before the measures taken by the Tunisian President recently.

In The Arab Republic of Egypt, the spread of disinformation that have become a major means of disinformation, promotion, mobilization, recruitment, and dissemination of ideas that in turn helped the Muslim Brotherhood to the seizure of power before their removal in 2013.

In The State of Libya, the disinformation disseminated by the Muslim Brotherhood played a prominent role in drawing young people towards an ideology that previously planted in them the spirit of extremism, fueled conflicts and led to a debilitating civil war led by Brotherhood militias. This made Libya a safe haven for mercenaries and terrorist groups that committed many planned and organized terrorist acts and committed the most severe types of violations.

Likewise for Tunisia, where media disinformation has constituted a source of concern for the peace and stability of this country, if not for the constitutional measures recently taken by the Tunisian president.

As for the Arabian peninsula, the disinformation campaign has intensified, becoming an integral part of the ongoing conflict process, as is the case in the Republic of Yemen, where the Islah Party (Brotherhood branch in Yemen and the decision maker in the government of the Republic of Yemen) perpetuates the process of disinformation, including fabricated allegations and slanders carried out by against the Southern Transitional Council who struggle for restoring the former Southern State.

The UAE is witnessing a misleading media campaign by the Muslim Brotherhood that other countries in the region have not witnessed, where the Muslim Brotherhood devote many satellite channels, including Al-Jazeera and other official Yemeni channels that broadcast from Riyadh, and others affiliated with the Islah Party broadcast from Istanbul, as well as through hundreds of thousands of accounts on social media, belong to Muslim Brotherhood activists, including those that support terrorist organizations, in addition to several Saudi tweeters via Twitter, all of which focus on launching a campaign of misleading allegations against the UAE.

It should be noted the serious consequences of disinformation on human rights, especially since digital technology has enabled the Muslim Brotherhood and other non-state actors and those behind them from states to fabricate, disseminate and amplify disinformation avenues of intentionally false information and allegations against the UAE motivated by political, ideological or commercial motives on an unprecedented scale to harm the targeted country, or public figure, which negatively affects the reputation of the person or government.

Moreover, allegations, reports and misleading and false information submitted by local and regional organizations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood to international non-governmental organizations and international bodies concerned with human rights under the umbrella of defending human rights because of the following reasons:

1. The UAE support the Southern Transitional Council, and combating political Islam in all its forms, targeting the Muslim Brotherhood mainly, and because It turned all its attention to fighting jihadist organizations, by joining the long-term campaign led by the United States against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and in this context Emirati soldiers have participated since 2016 years in the operations to root out the nests of al-Qaeda in the Republic of Yemen.
2. The UAE included the Islamist Group (Al Islah Reform) on the list of terrorist organizations along with the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda, ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra.
3. The UAE stood by the Arab Republic of Egypt in its efforts against Muslim brotherhood, and stands against Ennahda Movement in Tunisia, as well as stands against the Muslim Brotherhood jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and ISIS in Libya.

Therefore, the International Organization of the Least Developed Countries considers that, the campaigns of disinformation and distortion against the UAE the Southern Transitional

Council , through news of fabricated rumors, allegations and false reports about political motives launched by the Muslim Brotherhood considered as it targets the international community, as the UAE hosts 8 million foreigners of more than 200 nationalities, to become a microcosm of the world with its diverse ethnic, religious, cultural and civilized spectrum.

As an Early Warning, OIPMA recommends that, any allegations, reports and misleading and false information submitted by local and regional organizations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood to international non-governmental organizations and international bodies concerned with human rights under the umbrella of defending human rights with the aim of denigrating individuals, institutions, or countries, or distorting specific laws, it is a flagrant violation of human rights. It considers that the adoption by international organizations of those reports and information they receive without checking and verifying their authenticity, backgrounds, and motives, is also a participation in supporting disinformation campaigns, and a flagrant violation of human rights standards.
