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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 Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, 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.

[27 August 2012]

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

Health of Iranians jeopardized by high-intensity radio-frequency exposures and salt and sand storms

Dust and sand storms blow out of the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over Khuzestan Province of Iran causes severe and hazardous health effects especially at the cities of Abadan, Ahwaz and Khorramshahr. During some of these dust and sand storms high density of up to 50 times the standard limit of suspended particles or aerosols^{1 2 3} causes low visibility and endangers inhabitants health. The frequency, duration and intensity of the dust and sand storms are increasing substantially.⁴ The construction of around 500 dams and decrease of precipitation ended to drying of 66 internationally registered natural wetlands inside the Islamic Republic of Iran. This has affected on Iran's natural ecosystem. The experts believe that one of the most important causes of dust storms in Khuzestan is the drying up of part of Hurolazim Wetland. The float of these hazardous particles in the air has jeopardized the inhabitants' life. The response of government has merely been to shut down schools and offices when air pollution is much higher than standard norms. More than 3 Million inhabitants of Khuzestan are encountered with this danger and the number of lung and heart disease are increasing. The sampling of dust fallout from Ahwaz and along Iraq-Iran border showed chemical, mineral and microbial contaminants in many samples. The contents of uranium, thorium, arsenic, lead, zinc, nickel and cobalt exceeded the natural background level.⁵ However the Iranian authorities have denied such contaminations.⁶

Salt particles distributed from the dried lake banks of Urmia during the storms at Azarbaijan province of Iran are also another danger to the health of the inhabitants. The ecological system of the Lake Urmia and the surroundings had prohibited dust storms in the area but the dried banks of the lake themselves are now source of salt storms. Little information is available on the health effects of salt storms at Azarbaijan province.

Tens of thousands of people have been suffering through sand storms in Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran. The Human wetland have almost completely dried up within the last years and the light silty floor of the wetland is now a source of some very impressive dust storms that appear to be increasing both in frequency and severity.⁷

The Islamic Republic of Iran broadcasts radio frequency signals in order to censor the Persian news beamed in from outside of its borders. These very intensive signals have increased in miscarriage rates among young women. In an interview with a daily newspaper a Medicine Dr. says: "this system affects the brain, nerves, and tolerance of a person, and oftentimes affects internal glands and the uterus among pregnant women. [Signal interruptions] can cause miscarriage and genetic birth defects."⁸ No official or government

¹ <http://khuzestan.blogsky.com/1391/06/01/post-7928/>.

² <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=13901221000425>.

³ <http://www.aftabnews.ir/vdcizwazyt1arw2.cbct.html>.

⁴ H. Misconi & M. Navi (2011); Medical Geology in the Middle East; 135-174; O.Selinus et al. (eds), Medical Geology, International Year of Planet Earth.

⁵ Same as 4.

⁶ <http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/mobile/267051>.

⁷ <http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/267169/%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%A7%D9%88%DB%8C%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C-120-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%87-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86>.

⁸ Hamshahri Newspaper, 30 Oct. 2009 <http://mscenter.ir/Thread-%D8%A7%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AC>-

body is held accountable for these signal interruptions. The website Jaras cites reputable sources in its issue dated 1 October 2009 when it fingers the Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as responsible for interruptions in radio wave signals since 2002 when they began such work in Tehran and other large cities. In those early years, the IRGC bought its equipment from a company called Ericsson and an Iranian company tied to the defence ministry and controlled by the IRGC has since been manufacturing such products modelled on foreign originals like those created by Ericsson. According to confirmed news⁹ Iran has bought new mobile systems for jamming satellite signals from Russia. Multiple studies correlate RF exposure with diseases such as cancer, neurological disease, reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, and electromagnetic hypersensitivity.

The right to the enjoyment of safe, clean and healthy sustainable environment is not a luxury but a human right.

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⁹ BBC News 25 October 2011.