International Protection of Human Rights During the Covid-19 Pandemic Fight

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Abstract

Despite the efforts made by governments and international organizations such as public health groups: (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the efforts of NGOs to combat and monitor the pandemic Covid-19, through what they allow National laws and international conventions, however, declaring emergencies based on an outbreak of the Coronavirus should not be used as a basis for targeting specific groups, minorities or individuals, nor should they serve as a cover for repressive action under the guise of protecting health, or be used to violate human rights, as a result of A reached International reports regarding the imposition of restrictions on human rights during the pandemic Covid-19.

Keywords: Human Rights - Covid-19- national and international Protection.

INTRODUCTION

International human rights law guarantees everyone the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and obliges states to take measures to prevent a public health threat and to provide medical care to those who need it. Human rights law also recognizes that restrictions imposed on some rights, in the context of serious threats to public health and public emergencies that threaten the life of a nation, can be justified when they have a legal basis, and are absolutely necessary, based on scientific evidence, and their application is not arbitrary or discriminatory. And for a specified period of time, respecting human dignity, and are subject to review and proportionate in order to achieve the desired goal.

It is worth noting that the right to health is closely related to the implementation of other human rights and depends on that, as contained in the international legitimacy of human rights, including the right to food, housing, work, education, human dignity, life, non-discrimination, equality and the prohibition of torture, Privacy, access to information, freedom of association, assembly and movement, as these rights and freedoms and others address integral components of the right to health.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

My choice of the topic of international protection of human rights came during the operations of combating the pandemic Covid-19, to highlight the following objectives:

- Attention and personal inclination of the topic as it relates to a fundamental right of individuals, is the right to protect the health stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as it is a right called for by international organizations, and the right to national legislation is guaranteed.
- The topic of national and international mechanisms to protect the rights of the individual during counterpandemic operations is considered 19 of the most important issues especially in front of the spread of some manifestations of repression and media blackout regarding the spread of the epidemic in a frightening and terrifying way.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the mechanisms and guarantees that are put in place by the International Project for the Protection of the Right to Health, which is constitutionally and internationally devoted to it through the International Charter for Human Rights.

- The growing interest of society in the field of private health to the informational flow happening and what should be provided by the international community (the World Health Organization, non-governmental organizations) of the legal protection it ensures the commitment of everyone in the development and proposals for solutions that will strengthen efforts to address the risks posed by a pandemic Covid-19.

RESEARCH PROBLEM:

The efforts of governments and international organizations such as groups concerned with public health, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to combat and control the pandemic, as permitted by domestic laws and international conventions. However, declaring emergencies based on an outbreak of the Coronavirus should not be used as a basis for targeting specific groups, minorities or individuals, nor should they serve as a cover for repressive action under the guise of protecting health, or be used to violate human rights?

THE STUDY METHODOLOGY

To answer the problem of research, we adopted two approaches: the descriptive approach, by giving a description of legal facts and jurisprudence that dealt with the topic of research through access to modern and specialized scientific sources. In addition to the analytical approach, in order to clarify the path of legal protection and the international endeavors decided by the national and international law to guarantee protection for the rights of the individual during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The first topic: Covid-19 pandemic and its human dimensions

The first requirement: the definition of Covid-19

Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by the emerging coronavirus (Corona virus) that was first detected in December 2019, Corona viruses are a viral family that causes respiratory infections, and so far there is no vaccine to prevent corona virus, and there is no medicine to treat the resulting disease About him, except for dealing with his symptoms (statement by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, 01/22/2020 AD).

The Covid-19 pandemic, like other infectious diseases, poses a greater threat to people who live close to each other,

disproportionately affecting the elderly and people with underlying diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory diseases. Chronic, high blood pressure, 80% of those who died due to coronavirus in China were over 60 years old.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the outbreak of the "Covid-19" disease caused by the emerging Corona virus - which first appeared in December 2019 in Wuhan, China - had reached the pandemic level, or the global epidemic.

The World Health Organization has called on all state governments to take urgent and tougher steps to halt the spread of the virus, citing concerns about "levels of concern and severity of spread", and it is clear that the Covid-19 epidemic, with its breadth and severity, amounts to a threat to public health and could justify the imposition of Restrictions on some rights, such as those resulting from quarantine or isolation that limit freedom of movement. At the same time, careful attention to human rights (such as non-discrimination) and human rights principles (such as transparency and respect for human dignity) will enhance an effective response in the midst of the inevitable turmoil that occurs in times of crisis, and reduce the harm that may result from imposing broad measures That does not respect international human rights standards.

In mid-March 2020, more than 150 countries announced that they had recorded cases of coronavirus, the World Health Organization reported that the number of cases exceeded 200,000 globally, more than 7,000 people died, and the numbers continue to rise at an alarming rate (Statement by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, 23/23/2020).

The second requirement: the role of the international community in reducing the human rights concerns posed by the Covid 19-pandemic

1- The most important international standards applied

According to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which most states have ratified, every human being is entitled to "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health", as countries are obligated to take effective measures "to prevent, treat and combat epidemic, endemic and occupational diseases and other diseases", The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which monitors states 'commitment to the Covenant (Ouarda Belkacem Layachi, 2012, p. 67), stated the following:

- A- The right to health requires that facilities, goods and health services be available in sufficient quantities, available to all without discrimination, and at reasonable prices for all, even marginalized groups, that is, they respect the ethics of the medical profession and are culturally appropriate, scientifically and medically appropriate, and of high quality.
- B- Protecting freedom of expression and ensuring access to important information, under international human rights law, governments are obligated to protect the right to freedom of expression, including the right to seek, receive, and publish all types of information, regardless of any limits, and the permissible restrictions on freedom of expression for reasons Related to public health, you should not jeopardize this right, as governments are responsible for providing the necessary information on protecting and promoting rights,

including the right to health. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights considers that "providing education and providing access to information related to the major health problems in society, including methods of prevention and control", are "priority commitments".

It is worth noting that there are many countries, governments did not respect the right to freedom of expression, and took measures against journalists and health care workers, which reduced the effectiveness of communication when the outbreak began, and undermined confidence in government work. Examples include:

China: The Chinese government concealed basic information about the Corona virus from the public, reduced reporting and severity of infections, and ignored the possibility of transmission between people. The Chinese authorities also detained people for publishing reports of the epidemic through social media, due to "spreading rumors" and censoring On discussions of the epidemic on the Internet, the coverage of the media was curbed, and in early January, Dr. (Li Wenliang), a doctor in a hospital in Wuhan where the injured were being treated by the police for "spreading rumors", was summoned. Beware of the new virus in an online chat Ren (WHO's Mission to China, 03/29/2020).

Iran: The outbreak appeared after the authorities completely undermined the public's trust by brutally suppressing widespread protests against the government. The Iranian authorities had problems assuring people that the government's decisions about the virus's outbreak were in their interest, and the emergence of large and unusual numbers of HIV cases among officials Governmental officials, as well as conflicting figures announced by local officials and press sources, have raised concerns that the data were intentionally wrong or misrepresented and analyzed.

Thailand: Public health workers and journalists who spoke on the Internet faced retaliatory prosecutions from the authorities with a view to intimidating them after they criticized the government's response to the epidemic, raised fears of a possible cover-up, and published reports of alleged corruption related to the accumulation of surgical masks and other supplies and profiting from it. Disciplinary measures have been taken against some health personnel, including the cancellation of contracts and work licenses, due to speaking of an acute shortage of basic equipment in hospitals across the country.

C- Ensure that the quarantine, closure and travel ban are subject to human rights standards

International human rights law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, requires that restrictions on rights for public health or national emergencies be legal, necessary, and proportionate, restrictions must be implemented on issues such as mandatory quarantine and the isolation of people with symptoms In line with the law, it must be absolutely necessary to achieve a legitimate goal, based on scientific evidence, and commensurate with that goal, and not arbitrary or discriminatory when applied, and it has a specific time period, respects human dignity, and is subject to review.

China: In mid-January, the Chinese authorities imposed a quarantine on nearly 60 million people in two days in an attempt to reduce transmission from the city of Johann in Hubei Province, where the virus was first detected, although 5 million people, out of a total of 11 million people inhabited. Johann, they had left the city when the stone started.

In Hong Kong, consistent efforts have been made to encourage social separation, hand-washing and masks (WHO Director-General, 02/20/2020).

Italy: The government imposed an exit ban, but has greater protection for individual rights, as the Italian government adopted progressive restrictive measures since the first major outbreak of Coronavirus in the country in late February. Initially, the authorities put ten towns in the Lombardy region and one in the province of Venuto under strict quarantine and prevented residents from leaving, at the same time, closed schools in the affected places (Emergency Ministerial Conference, 02/22/2020).

On March 8, after a noticeable increase in the number of cases and the increasing burden on the health system, the government imposed a large set of new measures in the north of the country, which added many severe restrictions on movement and basic freedoms, as these measures included the rest of the country and reinforced additional restrictions on travel except for work Basic or health reasons (based on what the person concerned declares), closing all cultural centers (cinemas and museums), canceling sporting events and public gatherings,

On March 11, the government closed all bars, restaurants, and stores, with the exception of food markets and pharmacies (and some other exceptions) across the country, and a fine of 206 euros was imposed against those who violate travel restrictions without a valid reason, in addition to imprisonment for three months, also closed All schools and universities across the country, and people are only allowed to go out to purchase basic materials, play sports or work (if it is impossible to do it from home) or for health reasons (including caring for sick relatives).

As for South Korea, the government adopted an extensive test for the Corona virus, and focused on identifying hotbeds of infection, and conducted a large number of tests for people at risk of infection for free, and sterilized streets in areas with high numbers of infections, and established centers that allow people to undergo testing in their cars And encouraged social separation.

Taiwan has identified patients who need health care and show symptoms of respiratory disease, and some have tested for the Corona virus. It also established a system that warns the authorities based on a person's travel record and symptoms while visiting clinics to help identify and monitor injuries.

Singapore has adopted a program that tracks contact with other people who have been diagnosed with infection, among other measures, but the government's decision to deport four foreign workers for breaching their 14-day mandatory leave and preventing them from

working in the country raised concerns about arbitrary sanctions.

D- Protection of detainees and persons in pastoral institutions

The risk of the Covid-19 pandemic is particularly acute in detention centers, such as prisons and immigration detention centers, as well as institutions where people with disabilities live, and homes for the elderly, where the virus can spread quickly, especially if access to health care is inherently poor.

States are obligated to guarantee the health care of their detainees, provided they are at least equal to the care available to the general public, and they must not prevent or restrict access of detainees, including asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, to the same measure of preventive, curative and palliative health care. Asylum-seekers, refugees living in camps, and people who are homeless may be more vulnerable due to lack of access to adequate water and sanitation.

Also, with regard to care homes and other places that house large numbers of elderly people, the conditions for visits should balance between protecting the elderly and most vulnerable inmates on the one hand, and their need for family and communication on the other. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a policy of prohibiting visits to its 134 care homes across the country to counter the threat of Corona virus (INTERPOL, 3/26/2020).

As for prisons, it is noticeable that there is a great lack of health care, where people and prisoners in detention centers or prison or migrant detention centers do not receive adequate health care, whether in normal circumstances or in international health crises even in economically developed countries, the decline in care contributed The health of immigrants dies while in custody with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, and the detainees are often elderly and people with chronic health conditions, which means that they are at greater risk of contracting the Coronavirus.

For the United States of America, we find that many prisoners are not convicted of a crime, but are being held because they are unable to pay the bail specified in their cases, and older men and women form the fastest growing category in American prisons because of prolonged penalties, and it is worth noting that prison administrators originally face difficulties in Providing them with the necessary health care, which led the American authorities to expedite the judicial procedures in courts in one Ohio county by reviewing the cases of the detainees, released some of them and transferred the others to prisons, and the American Civil Liberties Union raised an appeal JJ to challenge continued detention of migrants in light of the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

In Iran, it was reported that prisoners were confirmed to be infected with the Corona virus, including those held in (Evin) prison in Tehran and in the two cities of (Orumiyeh and Rasht). In an open letter in February, the families of 25 prisoners detained for their peaceful activities requested their release, at least temporarily, in light of the outbreak of the virus And the lack of medical care in prisons.

In March, it was reported that the Iranian judiciary

temporarily released about 85,000 prisoners on the occasion of the New Persian Year (Eid Nowruz), which is much more than usual on this occasion, and it appears that it is due to fears of an outbreak of the Corona virus, but dozens of human rights and other detainees On loose national security charges, they are still in prison.

As for Bahrain, on March 12, it was reported that Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pardoned 901 detainees "for humanitarian reasons and under the current circumstances," in reference to the outbreak of the Corona virus. The Ministry of the Interior announced that 585 other prisoners would be released and would receive non-prison sentences.

As for Italy, the prisoners protested in more than 40 prisons because of fears of infection in overcrowded facilities, and against the ban of family visits and the conditional release during the outbreak. In response, the authorities for the first time allowed the use of e-mail and Skype to communicate with prisoners and their families, and for educational purposes, and announced a plan to place prisoners under 18 months of imprisonment under house arrest.

"Antigone", the main organization concerned with the rights of prisoners in Italy, estimated the number of the beneficiaries of this procedure at 3 thousand prisoners, while the prison system includes about 14 thousand prisoners over its capacity. Based on that, the organization called for the adoption of broader measures to ensure the release of a larger number Among the detainees, especially the elderly and those with health conditions that put them at risk, among other measures, civil society organizations also called for the introduction of prison alternatives for all those currently in immigration detention centers in Italy due to the increased risk of injury and the inability to deport them

E- Ensuring the protection of workers in the health sector

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council of Europe, 1989, p. 29) stipulates the duty of governments to create conditions that "provide medical services and medical care for all in the event of illness", as governments are obligated to reduce the risk of occupational accidents and diseases, including Ensuring workers have access to health information and adequate protective clothing and equipment. This means providing health workers and others involved in tackling the Corona virus with appropriate training in infection control and appropriate protective equipment.

Hungary: Human Rights Watch research on acquired infections in its hospitals indicates that the country's health system, which suffers from mismanagement, underfunding, and staff shortages, is not equipped to deal with the outbreak of the Coronavirus, where patients and medical experts have stated the issue of a lack of a protocol Basic hygiene, isolation rooms, shortage of health professionals, doctors and nurses, and medical supplies in general.

Venezuela: Human Rights Watch has documented that there is almost a breakdown in the health system, as hospitals are closed and few are operating at a fraction of its capacity, and do not receive electricity or water regularly.

F- The right to obtain knowledge through e-learning (distance education)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that states "work to find solutions based on advanced or simple technology or without the use of technology to ensure the regularity and continuity of the learning process", in order to ensure that educational systems respond appropriately (Abdel Aziz Sarhan, 1988, p. 34).

It is noted that most educational institutions, where teachers use online learning platforms to give homework to supplement the usual hours of communication in the classroom and to give exercises in the classroom and research, many students can use technological devices at home.

G- Ensuring the marginalized population has access to health care without discrimination (Saeed Fahim, 1998, p. 78)

Governments should ensure that financial barriers do not prevent people from getting exams, preventive care, and Covid-19 treatment. In the United States, 28 million people lack health insurance and about a third of the population has difficulty paying for treatment even though they are insured.

Many people in the United States have reported avoiding medical care or purchasing prescription medications because of the cost, which has exacerbated their condition, because in the event of an epidemic, avoiding medical care not only harms people with the Corona virus, but may also increase Virus outbreak.

H- Protection of local community organizations and civil society (Suleiman Sweis, 1998, p. 89)

Civil society organizations perform essential work in supporting efforts to stop the spread of the virus and ensuring that people with the Corona virus have access to protection, care, and necessary social services in particular or those who live in isolation or in quarantine, and governments should protect and support civil society organizations in carrying out this work, as well Organizations that monitor the effects of the disease outbreak.

For example, in Hong Kong, ordinary people themselves have made and distributed masks and antiseptics to people most at risk to fill loopholes resulting from government policies, but the Chinese government has long maintained a tight grip on NGOs, and some groups are underfunded during an outbreak of the disease.

In Italy, the authorities subjected marine non-governmental rescue organizations that assist migrants and asylum-seekers to quarantine in the ports, even though the results of the virus screenings of the crew and passengers were negative. It is noted that, in the context of continuing disruption, prohibition and even criminalization of civilian rescue missions, unnecessary quarantine may be used to deter maritime rescue operations.

I- Promoting the right to water and sanitation

The right to water and sanitation is part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has emphasized that the right to water and the right to sanitation are essential elements of the right to an adequate standard of living, and are closely related to the right In health".

The World Health Organization has indicated the necessity of providing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions to protect human health during the outbreak of the Corona virus, because we can only strengthen the prevention of corona virus transmission from one person to another except by strengthening the right to water and sanitation, and supporting water and sanitation infrastructure Health and technicians who provide these services to ensure the quality and continuity of water, sanitation and hygiene provision; waste management in local communities, homes, schools, markets and health centers.

The second topic: the efforts of international organizations to combat the Covid pandemic – 2019

The first requirement: restrictions on human rights during the public health crisis in accordance with the Syracuse principles

The "Syracuse Principles", adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1984, and the "United Nations Commission on Human Rights" provide binding guidance on the responses of some governments that restrict human rights for public health reasons, especially in emergency situations (American Convention on Human Rights, 1989, p. 56).

All measures taken to protect people that restrict their rights and freedoms must be legal, necessary, and proportionate. Emergencies must also be time-bound, and each restriction of rights must take into account the disproportionate impact on specific population groups or marginalized groups (WHO Mission to China, 3/29/2020).

The Syracuse Principles specifically provide that restrictions are at least specific and applied in line with international humanitarian law and state constitutions, where they are required to:

- Directed towards a legitimate aim of the public interest.
- It is absolutely necessary in a democratic society to achieve a goal.
- the least intrusive and restrictive to achieving a goal;
- Based on scientific evidence, not arbitrary or discriminatory when applied.

The second requirement: the international national mechanisms to combat the Covid pandemic – 2019

The role of national governments in responding to the Covid-2019 pandemic

Social divergence and quarantine may have a major impact in limiting the spread of the Covid-19 virus, but closing institutions of all kinds has enormous economic consequences. The most vulnerable to poverty are lowwage workers in low-income families, so governments should create mechanisms In order to avoid exposure of workers affected by the Coronavirus to income loss that may prevent them from self-isolating to contain the spread of the virus, and to ensure continued humanitarian assistance, economic relief must be directed to helping lowincome workers, and governments should take political measures to mitigate the economic impacts of Corona Virus. In confirmation of the above, public health experts recommend that companies encourage employees to work from home to prevent the spread of the virus, although remote work is not available to millions of workers in areas such as retail, restaurants, personal services, the free or temporary professions market, and the informal sectors. Therefore, in these areas of work, employment conditions are less stable, wages tend to decrease, and workers in some countries get a few days for paid sick leave, especially in countries such as the United States, where low wages may be associated with a lack of paid sick leave and health care coverage, Thus these workers will need help.

In this regard, Human Rights Watch urged governments to ensure paid sick and family leave to enable workers to take leave to care for newborn children or sick or elderly family members, or even to care for themselves when they have serious health conditions, without losing their salaries.

In the context of the Corona virus and other disease outbreaks, paid family sick leave helps ensure that sick workers (or those with sick family members) remain in their homes to reduce the spread of the virus, because the lack of paid sick and family leave makes disease outbreaks such as Covid-19 A burden on poor and marginalized workers should therefore be avoided.

Among the proposed solutions is a direct cash payment to offset some of the lost hours of work, as the United States government did during the 2008 recession, low-paid workers may need to be protected from the consequences of being fired by employers when their illness or family members illness prevents them from working. Because without assistance, these workers may face severe economic hardships, default on their debt, and evict their homes.

In addition, small one-time cash grants provided to families whose children receive free school meals or who receive family social security assistance may help mitigate the effects on the family that is already suffering, in addition to losing income, there are additional burdens due to school closures and It requires electronic education from the means and capabilities (such as providing a computer and the Internet).

Perhaps this has led to the need for many European countries, including Italy, France, and Spain, to adopt special financial measures to support workers, low-income families, and small enterprises (International Operations Covid-19, 03/19/2020).

2. The role of international organizations in responding to the Covid-2019 pandemic

Civil society organizations and NGOs, along with international humanitarian organizations, have played an important role in tackling global diseases and epidemics, by providing financial and in-kind support, disseminating information widely on ways to prevent, supporting prevention and health education programs, and forming voluntary networks and working groups to support the work of official government agencies in this regard.

In China, despite the iron grip of the Chinese authorities that control everything, including money flows, and restrictions on the work of international humanitarian organizations, it witnessed the participation of a number of organizations directly in the focus of the Corona crisis in Johann, and Chinese charities began to impose their presence in response He did the Corona virus, including those from religious institutions, as seven Protestant churches in Beijing collected ten thousand dollars to buy face masks and antiseptic for Yuhan residents.

Some registered religious organizations have also generously donated, according to the New York Times article about the role of religious organizations in the

Corona crisis. The Chinese Buddhist Association contributed \$ 14 million, the Protestant Association \$ 10 million, the Islamic Society at \$ 4.5 million, and the association Catholicism with \$ 1.5 million, and the Taoists Association with \$ 1.9 million, in addition to prayer stops for those afflicted under the closure of temples and churches as part of the effort to control the virus (INTERPOL's COVID-19, 6/4/2020).

On the other hand, a number of platforms have emerged on social media, among which the Chinese have formed groups to communicate to help patients find beds in hospitals, encourage volunteers to transport them to hospitals and stimulate public opinion and humanitarian organizations to provide protective equipment, and in this Field A group has emerged on the popular Chinese social networking site We Chat, which includes volunteers to help find safety supplies for frontline medical workers.

On the international response, Bright Funds established the Corona Virus Response Fund 2020, which is comprised of non-profit organizations previously approved by the Chinese government, and protection equipment for health workers is a top priority in the Corona Resistance Strategy, and in this framework the Project HOPE effort working in China since 1983, which has provided more than 2 million face masks, 11,000 protective suits and 280,000 pairs of examination gloves to general hospitals in Johann, plus more than 365,000 face masks and other protective equipment to the Shanghai Children's Medical Center and the Hubei Provincial Charity Federation.

For its part, Direct Relief has provided more than half a million respirators, more than 340,000 gloves, and other things like shoe covers from its emergency medical stock, and is working with the giant shipping company FedEx to send continuous shipments of protective equipment, and thus some humanitarian organizations are trying to provide A positive model in lending a hand and support in bridging the gap to contain the spread of the virus according to its capacity, capabilities and field of work (International COVID-19 fraud exposed: 04/14/2020).

CONCLUSION

Despite the efforts made by governments and international organizations such as groups concerned with public health, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the efforts of NGOs in combating and controlling the pandemic, as permitted by national laws and charters International, however, declaring emergencies based on the outbreak of the Coronavirus should not be used as a basis for targeting specific groups, minorities or individuals, nor should they serve as a cover for repressive action under the guise of protecting health, or be used simply to violate human rights as a result of The international reports regarding the restrictions imposed on human rights during the Covid-19 pandemic, based on the foregoing, the international community must abide by the provisions of national laws such as constitutions and protect them for the rights of individuals, and international covenants such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Protecting freedom of expression and ensuring access to important information:
 - Governments should fully respect the right to freedom of expression and the right to access information, and

- limit them only to the extent permitted by international standards.
- Governments should ensure that the information they provide to the public about the Coronavirus is accurate, timely, and consistent with human rights principles. This is important for handling false and misleading information.
- All information related to the Coronavirus should be available in multiple languages, including for people who are fluent or not literate, including making TV ads available for people with special needs such as deaf and dumb.
- 2. Governments should avoid comprehensive and extremely loose restrictions on movement and personal freedom, and resort to mandatory restrictions only when they are scientifically and necessary justifications and after securing mechanisms to support those affected. A letter from more than 800 public health and law experts in the United States stated that "voluntary self-isolation measures (coupled with education, extensive screening, and universal access to treatment) are likely to stimulate collaboration and maintain public confidence more than coercive measures, and are likely to prevent attempts to avoid dealing with Health system".
- 3. Government agencies that have authority over persons in prisons and immigration detention centers should consider reducing the number of inmates through appropriate or early conditional release of detainees in the category of least exposed to the risks of the virus, including for example those who may soon be released, and remanded in custody due to Nonviolent or less serious crimes, and those whose detention is unnecessary or unjustified.

The release of detainees most at risk of the effects of the virus, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, should be reconsidered, taking into account the detention facility's ability to protect their health, including ensuring their access to treatment, and taking into account factors such as the seriousness of the crime committed and the prison period spent by the detainees.

- 4. The authorities managing prisons and immigration detention centers should publicly disclose their plans to reduce the risk of contracting the Coronavirus in these facilities and the steps they will take to contain the infection and protect prisoners, prison staff, and visitors, in the event of HIV infections or the risk of infection.
- 5. Governments should ensure that health workers have access to appropriate protection equipment and provide social protection programs for the families of workers who die or fall ill as a result of their work, and ensure that these programs include informal workers, who make up a large proportion of the care-giving sector.
- 6. States are obligated to ensure that the health crisis does not turn into a human rights crisis due to the inability of people to access appropriate medical care, and governments should take steps to ensure that everyone has access to affordable and easy-to-access medical care and treatment options.

7. **Governments** should not use this pandemic to criminalize aid provided by civil society organizations.

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