



UPR 13th session

**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on Tunisia**

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 22, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden wishes to thank XX and his/her delegation for the presentation of your national report and to welcome you to the UPR session.

The new Tunisian law on torture, enacted in 2011, is a welcomed move which brings the Tunisian legal definition closer to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Tunisia has acceded. However, it includes a statute of limitations of 15 years, which is contrary to international human rights and humanitarian law.

Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Tunisia to amend the statute of limitations to be in line with international law, as codified in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law and, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in order to eliminate torture and other maltreatment committed by state agents.

On a number of recent occasions peaceful demonstrators have been attacked or threatened by groups opposing their views without law enforcement officers intervening in protection of their legal rights.

Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Tunisia to take appropriate measures to ensure that freedom of assembly and expression is not threatened and to combat impunity of those identified as responsible for human rights violations.

Thank you, Madam President