

5

UN Human Rights Council

UPR 14th session

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

*Delivered by Ambassador Jan Knutsson
Geneva, October 30, 2012*

Madam/Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and her delegation for the presentation of your national report.

We appreciate that Pakistan has, since the 2008 UPR, adopted a number of laws and taken steps designed to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination.

Sweden welcomes the Pakistani government's condemnation of the attack against the activist Malala Yousufzai. Nevertheless, domestic violence, rape, "honour killings", acid attacks and forced marriages remain serious problems in Pakistan. Effective implementation of current laws is lacking as well as credible institutions to monitor and report on the situation.

Sweden would like to recommend the enactment of a provincial legislation on domestic violence, as well as an increased number of support structures for women on the provincial level.

As the *Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance* noted in its preliminary recommendations, enforced disappearances are part of a pattern that includes serious violations of human rights conducted by intelligence and military forces.

Sweden recommends the Government of Pakistan to vest the national *Commission on Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances* greater authority and resources to conduct investigations.

Sweden also urges Pakistan to re-consider the recommendation concerning defamation and blasphemy, rejected in 2008, and recommends that the legislation is reviewed and aligned with freedom of religion and belief and freedom of expression, as stipulated in the ICCPR.

Finally, we would like to recommend Pakistan to take all appropriate steps to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC and to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute.

Thank you Madam/Mr President