



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

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Sixteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group April - May 2013

Statement from Norway:

UPR of Bangladesh

Thank you Mr. President,

Norway acknowledges the efforts made by Bangladesh to improve its human rights situation and welcome the country's important social and economic progress.

During the last years a number of journalists have been arrested and killed. We recommend the Government to treat those in custody in accordance with international human rights principles, and to bring to justice perpetrators of attacks on journalists.

Norway is concerned that young bloggers, which have added positively to an open and broad based debate, have become victims of death threats, criminal and cyber violence and murder. We recommend the Government to take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and a safe and enabling environment for social media. We also recommend the Government to issue an early invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Expression.

In its 2009 UPR, Bangladesh accepted to take measures to protect Human Rights Defenders. However, the situation remains challenging and we recommend that the Government step up its efforts to ensure that human rights defenders are protected and allowed to conduct their work without hindrance, intimidation or harassment both at the national and local level.

I thank you

Postal address:
Post Office Box 264
CH-1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

Office address:
35 bis, Avenue de Budé
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone:
+41 (0)22 918 0400
Telefax:
+41 (0)22 918 0410

Enquiries to:
mission.geneva@mfa.no
www.norway-geneva.org