

UN Human Rights Council

UPR 16th session

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

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, Tuesday 23 April, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to thank XX and his/her delegation for presenting your national report and welcomes this opportunity to continue the dialogue on the advance questions raised.

Sweden recognizes, with appreciation, the Government of Colombia's commitment to extend the mandate of the UN Colombia Office for Human Rights. Could the delegation elaborate on whether the extension will include all aspects of the current mandate: observation, advocacy, technical cooperation and public reporting.

Sweden is concerned about possible effects of the constitutional reform of military jurisdiction. Not least since it could lead to military courts taking over cases currently being investigated by the Attorney General's office.

How will the Government of Colombia ensure that serious human rights crimes such as the alleged extrajudicial killings known as "false positives" are not addressed by military courts?

Sweden recommends the government of Colombia to take concrete actions in the elaboration of regulatory laws of the constitutional reform to ensure that victim's rights are guaranteed, that military courts have a restrictive and exceptional scope, and that alleged human rights crimes, such as extrajudicial killings, in no case will be addressed by military courts.

Sweden welcomes the Colombian Government's openness to address the issue of sexual violence against women. However, we wonder what effective measures the government takes to prevent this and to ensure victims' access to justice, psychosocial assistance and support to reintegrate in society?

We recommend the Government of Colombia to take concrete and effective actions to implement the existing legal framework and to tackle the widespread impunity for crimes related to sexual violence.

Finally, Sweden recommends Colombia to implement the recommendations made by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, during her visit to Colombia in May 2012.