



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

**UN Human Rights Council**  
**UPR 17th session**

**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Central African Republic**

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck  
Geneva, October 25, 2013*

Mr Vice-President,

Sweden welcomes the delegation of the Central African Republic to Geneva and the UPR and thanks it for its active engagement.

The numerous accounts of pillage, rape, summary executions and other human rights violations over the past six months – often perpetrated by Séléka rebels and other armed groups – is cause for great concern. With continued near-total impunity for these acts – and with court infrastructure, lawyers, judges and prosecutors directly targeted by the violence – it is difficult to see how the situation can be turned around.

The CAR ratified CEDAW in 1991, and over the past few years some additional measures towards strengthening the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women have been taken. The criminalization of female genital mutilation (FGM) is an important step in this direction. Nevertheless, the low status of girls in society – as demonstrated by the continued widespread practice of child marriages and FGM – remains a major concern.

Sweden would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of the CAR.

1. Take immediate action to bring to an end the prevailing impunity for human rights violations in the country.

2. Investigate and bring to justice all perpetrators of human rights violations at the earliest.
3. Establish and make operational the Commission of Inquiry, and any additional transitional justice mechanism required, to address human rights violations before and after 2012
4. Take additional steps to strengthen the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women.

Thank you, Mr Vice-President