**Universal Periodic Review 17 – Israel**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Israeli delegation for its explanations on the human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. At the same time, we regret that its national report was not timely available which hindered an appropriate preparation for this review.

Mr. President,

We took note of Israel’s efforts to improve the treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military custody. Important steps have been made, such as the pilot to issue summons to children instead of night arrest at home and the reduction of detention time before appearing before a judge. However, given the special vulnerability of children, the Netherlands remains concerned about the level of care given to and rights of children in military custody.

The Netherlands welcomes Israel’s intention to improve the situation of the Bedouin communities in the Negev. However, we are concerned that the proposed Law for Regularizing Bedouin Habitation in the Negev does not sufficiently take into account the fundamental rights of the Bedouin community, we note the concerns raised by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights as well as a number of NGO’s.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Israel to:

1. take all steps necessary to ensure that Palestinian children in military custody receive the same level of care and have the same rights as provided by Israeli criminal law to youth offenders.
2. reconsider the current proposal, in order to better meet both the state’s interest to regularise the habitation in the Negev and the fundamental rights of the Bedouin community.

I thank you, Mr. President.