



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Israel

To be delivered by Ambassador Jan Knutsson

Geneva, October 29, 2013

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Israel and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of the national report.

We note that the number of persons held in administrative detention has declined over the past few years. However, Israeli human rights groups continue to express concern at its widespread use. The Human Rights Committee did also raise the frequent and extensive use of administrative detention, including for children, in its concluding observations. What measures is the Government of Israel taking to limit the use of administrative detention to only the most exceptional cases?

Sweden recommends that the Government of Israel ensure that the use of administrative detention is minimized and that human rights are fully respected in the fight against terrorism.

The Government of Israel has taken important steps to combat gender-based violence, by adopting new legislation and establishing a special task force. Nevertheless, it remains a serious problem. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has expressed concern at the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, particularly against those belonging to minority communities. Could the Government of Israel elaborate on its efforts to protect women and girls, including from the minority communities, from gender-based violence?

Sweden recommends that the Government of Israel intensifies its efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and girls, including from minority communities.

Thank you, Mr President