



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

**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Mexico**

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck  
Geneva, October 23, 2013*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes Mexico to the UPR and thanks you for your national report.

Sweden welcomes the efforts to implement a judicial reform that includes the aim to reduce the incitement to use torture in criminal investigations. However, we note with concern that reports from OPCAT (the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment), the CAT-conclusions, as well as information from NGOs, testify that the use of torture in Mexico is still widespread as a method of investigation.

Sweden recommends the Government of Mexico to implement the recommendations from CAT (49<sup>th</sup> session), as well as promote the use of the Istanbul protocol to determine cases of torture and to educate forensic experts.

Sweden also recommends that investigations of alleged torture should not be carried out by the same authority accused of committing acts of torture.

Sweden welcomes the substantial improvements of the legal framework to protect human rights in general, and journalists in particular, since the last UPR. The law for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists as well as the constitutional reform of 2012 are two significant achievements in this regard.

However, impunity for crimes against journalists remains a serious problem and limits to freedom of expression affect also social network users and bloggers in some states.

Sweden recommends Mexico to strengthen the Special Prosecutor for Attention to Crimes against Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), and ensure reparation for the victims, as well as to provide the mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders with the necessary support to fulfill its mandate.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President