



UN Human Rights Council
UPR 17th session

Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Saudi Arabia

To be delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni

Geneva, October 21, 2013

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of Saudi Arabia to the UPR and to express its appreciation for the presentation of the national report.

Since 2010, it appears as though the number of executions per year has risen. At the same time, it is noted that Saudi Arabia has strengthened the appeals process with regards to death penalty, which would be a welcome step.

Sweden recommends that Saudi Arabia introduce a moratorium on the death penalty.

Corporal punishments such as lashes and amputation of limbs are still part of Saudi penal law although they are considered to be both cruel and inhumane. Are there any plans to revise the application of penalties with a view to abolish these types of punishments?

Sweden recommends that corporal punishments such as lashes and amputation are abolished.

Saudi Arabia has in the last couple of years taken some steps to advance the situation for women. Further action needs to be taken to ensure that women effectively obtain, and are not prevented from exercising, their rights granted by the Universal Declaration of Human rights and CEDAW.

Sweden recommends that Saudi Arabia, as one such step, abolish the principle of male guardianship over women.

Sweden further recommends that Saudi Arabia accede to the ICCPR.

Thank you, Mr President