



Geneva

Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue with Vietnam

*To be delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
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Mr President,

Since 2009, there have been positive developments with regard to connectivity in Vietnam. Facebook is now accessible and millions of people are using internet on a daily basis to communicate and express their views. But, there has also been an increase in regulations to control internet and in harassments and arrests of netizens. Since 2009 at least 58 persons have been arrested and/or sentenced to jail under vague provisions of "national security offences" for exercising their right to freedom of expression on the Internet.

Despite signing CAT credible sources, including state media, continue to report on excessive use of force by police officers and national security forces as well as torture and ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners.

Sweden makes the following recommendations:

- Ensure that freedom of expression is protected both offline and online and amend or remove vague provisions in the penal code (such as article 79, 88 and 258), as well as new legislations (such as Decree 72 and Decree 174) to make sure that limitations of freedom of expression both in law and practice are strictly in line with the ICCPR.

- Declare a moratorium on the capital punishment; until that; promptly reduce the number of offences subject to death penalty and publish statistics about the use of death penalty in Vietnam.