



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on
Brunei Darussalam**

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, May 2, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden thanks the delegation for presenting the national report.

Political authority and control rests with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah who continues to govern Brunei Darussalam under emergency powers.

Death penalty exist but no known executions have occurred in Brunei since 1957. Restrictions on religious freedom; exploitation of foreign workers; and limitations on freedom of speech, press, assembly, and association are prevalent human rights challenges.

Last year Brunei introduced an Islamic penal code under Shariah law with provisions that impact the legal structure for many types of civil and criminal cases. The Criminal Procedure Code of the Sharia courts is not yet finalised.

The revised penal code stipulates the death penalty in numerous cases such as: rape, robbery, murder, sodomy, adultery, extramarital sexual relations for Muslims, insult or defamation of the Prophet Mohammad and blasphemy. Application of the death penalty for such a broad range of offences and acts contravenes international law. Moreover, the revised code introduces stoning as the method of execution in a number of cases.

Sweden has the following recommendations to make:

- Delay the entry into force of the revised Penal Code and conduct a comprehensive review ensuring its compliance with international human rights standards.
- Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty and to work towards its abolition.
- Consider ratification of core international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, such as ICCPR, CAT and ICESCR
- Review the reservations against the CRC and CEDAW.