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84 Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Iraq
3 November 2014
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Iraq to its second UPR. We thank the Republic of Iraq for their work in preparing and presenting the national report. Bearing in mind the past destruction and ongoing conflict, the country has achieved notable progress in many human rights areas. We welcome the ratification of international human rights instruments, particularly the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and good cooperation with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, and call on the Government to withdraw the remaining reservations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). At the same time we remain deeply worried by the ongoing violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including the massive executions, torture and other cruel treatment, particularly by ISIL and other associated extremist groups.

Estonia is also concerned about the situation of women held in detention facilities, particularly those sentenced to death. We urge the Government to establish a moratorium and ultimately abolish the death penalty. We also call on the Government to ensure the security for persons in Camp Liberty.

We welcome the decision of the Iraqi Parliament to reject the law on information technology crimes. Estonia further calls on the authorities to protect journalists and media professionals, to fight against acts of violence and to stop the killing, threatening and harassment of journalists.

Estonia would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Iraq:

- to ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- to amend the discriminatory provisions against women in the legislation and to take steps to fight violence against women and harmful practices, such as child marriage and crimes committed in the name of "honour";
- to bring national legislation in accordance with international standards to fully guarantee freedom of expression, association and assembly.

We would like to wish the delegation of Iraq a successful review meeting.

Thank you!