



**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on  
Kazakhstan**

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck,  
Geneva, October 30 2014*

**Mr President,**

Sweden welcomes the delegation from Kazakhstan to the UPR-review. Sweden welcomes the fact that Kazakhstan has observed a moratorium on the death penalty for a number of years and that the country has taken a number of steps towards its restriction and that the number of crimes eligible for this sentence has been reduced considerably.

However, Kazakhstan has not joined the ranks of the great majority of countries in the world that have abolished the death penalty.

Sweden therefore would like to recommend Kazakhstan to abolish the death penalty.

Sweden appreciates that Kazakhstan willingly accepted numerous recommendations related to the freedoms of expression, association and assembly during the last UPR. However, the current situation for free speech and media freedoms is restrictive and has suffered setbacks in the last four years.

Likewise, public assemblies are tightly controlled. In the four years since Kazakhstan's UPR, the government has not liberalized legislation on freedom of assembly despite pledging "to speedily draft and implement the new law on the right to assembly with fewer demands regarding prior registration and fewer requirements for information concerning".

Kazakhstan regularly closes, suspends or blocks opposition print publications and online sources and infringes upon or creates prohibitive practical complications for peaceful assembly.

Sweden therefore recommends Kazakhstan to seize the practice of closing, suspending or blocking opposition print publication and online sources and ensure equitable enjoyment of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President