



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Spain

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck,
Geneva, January 21, 2015*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the Spanish delegation to Geneva and the UPR process and we thank you for the comprehensive national report.

On December 11, the Spanish Congress adopted a revised Basic Law for the Protection of Public Security. The law amends a number of legal provisions related to public order and security, including the freedom of peaceful assembly and the rights of migrants and refugees. Concerns have been raised that the law establishes a number of administrative sanctions which may be interpreted as restricting citizens' ability to publicly protest or voice their concern.

Sweden recommends Spain to avoid any legislative amendments which would disproportionately limit the exercise of the right to freedom of assembly."

With regard to the rights of migrants and refugees, the newly adopted Basic Law for the Protection of Public Security appears to legalize the current practice of summary expulsions of migrants who try to cross over from Morocco into the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

Sweden recommends Spain to ensure access to effective asylum procedures in line with international law and to ensure that migration policies fully respect the principle of *non-refoulement* and are in line with EU-legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President