



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Honduras

*Delivered by Counsellor Ms Anna Jakenberg Brinck,  
Geneva, May 8, 2015*

**Mr President,**

Sweden welcomes the delegation from Honduras to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of the national report.

Sweden welcomes the decision of the Government of Honduras to apply for the establishment of an OHCHR country office. Sweden also welcomes the amendment of the Penal Code to incorporate femicide as a specific crime, ratified by the Honduran Congress in 2013.

Sweden is concerned however that violence against women is widespread and impunity for perpetrators is at extremely high levels. According to official data, more than 4500 women were murdered the last decade. Domestic violence and rape are heavily underreported. In July 2014 the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women visited Honduras. She noted the lack of effective implementation of legislation, gender discrimination in the justice system and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of legislation. The special rapporteur also expressed concern regarding the ban on abortion as it negatively impacts the sexual and reproductive rights of all women and girls in Honduras, including victims of rape.

Sweden recommends the following to Honduras

- 1) .conduct a comprehensive review and structural reform of the administration of justice with the aim to ensure judicial independence and reduce the growing number of cases of impunity;
- 2) formulate and implement a disarmament policy;
- 3) guarantee that all human rights defenders in Honduras are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities according to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- 4) ensure adequate budget allocation to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence;
- 5) respond effectively to all forms of violence against women including by providing law enforcement officials with gender training
- 6) ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of