



Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Libya

*Delivered by H E Ambassador Jan Knutsson
Geneva, May 13, 2015 (speaking time 1 min 15 sec)*

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation and express our thanks for the information related to our advance questions.

Sweden acknowledges the difficult situation Libya is going through and stresses the need for a political solution to the crisis. Terrorism is a worrying problem in Libya, where groups affiliated to ISIL have increased their presence on the ground. At the same time, rivalling factions often have a broad definition of terrorism, branding their opponents "terrorists".

Since the escalation of fighting in Libya in May 2014 several Libyan human rights defenders have become targets for attacks, including killings, abductions, torture and threats. As an example, in February a civil society activist was shot dead in Tripoli. Others are still missing, have fled the country or gone into hiding.

Sweden recommends Libya:

- 1) to respect the principles of human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism,
- 2) to take action to stop attacks on human rights defenders and to make sure that perpetrators are held accountable for crimes committed, in accordance with international standards.

Thank you, Mr. President