37th session of the UPR Working Group

# Review of Rwanda

# Recommendations by Sweden

# Delivered by: Mr. Fredrik Nivaeus, Minister Counsellor

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Madam/Mr. President,

Sweden commends Rwanda for the high representation of women in public institutions and the ambition to further improve gender equality. However, further efforts are needed to address gender-based violence. The removal of provisions on defamation in the new Penal Code is a positive step for the freedom of expression. Remaining restrictions on the freedom of assembly, association and expression need to also be addressed.

Sweden would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To guarantee the freedoms of assembly, association and expression by i.a. increasing space for dissent and discussion and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for everyone to exercise these rights.
2. To ensure due process and conduct effective and objective investigations regarding cases of alleged arbitrary arrest, detention and extrajudicial executions, including those which may constitute enforced disappearance.
3. To implement the law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-based Violence and ensure zero-tolerance among law enforcing agencies for gender-based violence.

Thank you.