

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR – Israel**  ***Belgian intervention***  *23rd of January 2018* |

Mr. President,

My country commends Israel for the efforts made since the last UPR session on addressing women’s rights.

Belgium however is concerned about the lack of progress on a number of issues of prime importance, such as arbitrary detentions and the apparent increase of restrictions on civil society organizations working on human rights.

In this context, we recommend:

**R1.** To take steps to provide the necessary and equal protection for all human rights defenders, as well as creating the necessary circumstances for them to be able to carry out their activities freely, without discrimination and in a secure environment;

**R2.** To take all necessary steps to align the use of administrative detention with international human rights standards and obligations; in particular, to take the necessary measures to ensure that Palestinian children are not exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention and enjoy full procedural rights in conformity with international human rights standards;

**R3.** Ensure that in practice, the civil, economic, social and cultural rights of minorities are respected and protected, without discrimination in particular with regard to the right to work, education, access to justice and legal protection as well as property.

Thank you, Mr. President