

Permanent Representation of Belgium

to the United Nations

and the international specialized institutions

in Geneva

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| **WG UPR 31 – Saudi Arabia**  ***Intervention of Belgium***  05 November 2018 |

Mr. President.

Like others, my delegation is concerned about restrictions to freedom of expression and association, and acts of intimidation and reprisals, especially against women human rights defenders and journalists.. The Khashoggi-murder is very much a case in point and we call for a thorough, credible and transparent investigation.

Furthermore Belgium recommends to:

**R1**. Amend the Law on Associations to bring it into full conformity with international law and standards.

**R2.** Release anyone imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, including human rights defenders and journalists.

**R3.** Ensure women’s equality with men before the law in the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights of freedom of movement, education, employment, marriage, and redress for violations.

**R4**. Amend the Juvenile Law in order to prohibit the death penalty for all persons under 18 at the time of committing the offence in line with article 37 of the CRC.

I thank you, Mr. President.