

19 March 2015

**UPR Iraq**

Thank you, Mr. President.

While we understand the difficult situation in Iraq, Sudwind regrets that besides the existing challenges in finding the facts as well as addressing human rights issues in this country, the addendum document was released in Arabic only and right before the Iraq UPR session, which makes the review even more difficult.

We are aware that you have no control over some parts of the country and hope you regain your territorial integrity soon, yet we regret that some fundamental recommendations did not enjoy your support such as ratifying the second optional protocol to the ICCPR.

We are very much concerned about the safety of Iranian refugees and pilgrims in Iraq. Due to the lack of safety, health & medical services as well as access to clean water in Iraq several dozens of Iranians have died both in camp liberty as well as in other places.

Close follow up on the status of women and children especially in conflict regions within the country is vital. At the same time we regret that Iraq has missed this opportunity of UPR to withdraw the Jaafari law on personal status issues which is a clear discriminatory law which legalizes child and early marriage.

Several LGBT individuals are reportedly prosecuted and punished by both Shiite and Sunni clerics. We welcome that the recommendation 98 from France enjoyed your support and expect that torture of LGBT persons will be stopped promptly.

Thank you, Mr. President