

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ISRAEL (FIRST BATCH)

BELGIUM

- During the previous UPR, the Government of Israel accepted the recommendation to take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against Bedouin women and strengthen the respect of their fundamental rights through concrete and voluntary measures. Can Israel provide more information on the follow-up given to this recommendation? In the same regard, does Israel consider to lift its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?
- As a strong proponent of the abolition of the death penalty, Belgium welcomes the fact that no execution has taken place in Israel since 1962. Can the Government of Israel provide more information on the recently introduced bill that would allow the application of the death penalty to Palestinians convicted of terrorism-related charges in military courts? Is the Government considering to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- Can the Government of Israel provide more details on how it intends to ensure the necessary protection for journalists and human rights defenders to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment and to ensure that such attacks are promptly investigated and those responsible held to account?
- Can the Government of Israel provide more details on how it intends to ensure effective implementation in practice of reforms in the administration of juvenile military justice in order to prevent that Palestinian children are not exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention and enjoy full procedural rights?
- The Committee against Torture expressed concerns regarding administrative detention noting, inter alia, that pursuant to relevant legislation, detainees could be held in detention without charge indefinitely on the basis of secret evidence that was not made available to the detainee or his/her lawyer. What steps have been taken by the Government of Israel to implement the Committee's recommendation to urgently take the measures necessary to end the practice of administrative detention and ensure that all persons in administrative detention are afforded all basic legal safeguards?

SWEDEN

- What measures is the Government of Israel planning to take to improve the situation for Palestinians in Area C, including East Jerusalem, so that they can remain in their homes and communities?

- Given Israel's history of a vibrant civil society, what is the Government of Israel doing to ensure that civil society organisations focusing on human rights are able to carry out their work in a secure and free environment, without undue restrictions shrinking their space, and actively combat incitement against the work of these organizations.
- Could the Government of Israel please elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure that asylum seekers are afforded relevant protection in accordance with international law, including international human rights law and international refugee law, and in particular the principle of non-refoulement?