

ITEM 6 : Saudi UPR

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Mr. President,

Considering the situation of human rights in Saudi Arabia our organization urges the Kingdom to:

- Guarantee a safe environment for freedom of expression exercised by journalists and prevent their harassment, arbitrary arrest or murder.
- Clarify how the Kingdom is going to guarantee an independent and accurate investigation into the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.
- Describe the steps taken for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in line with the accepted UPR recommendations.
- Amend the legal definition of terrorism in the counter-terrorism and cybercrime laws so that it does not lead to the prosecution of women's rights defenders, non-violent human rights activists, political dissidents, religious and Shia minorities and other persons merely for exercising their human rights.
- Strengthen its efforts to abolish the male guardianship system and improve women's social and economic empowerment.
- Amend the existing national laws in order to stop criminalisation of the private practice of religions other than Islam and other denominations of Islam including the Shia faith in line with the Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Clarify the steps the Kingdom is going to take to implement the recommendation of CEDAW's 2018 report on the country.
- Fully cooperate with the group of eminent and regional experts mandated by the Human Rights Council to investigate violation of human rights in Yemen.
- Immediately facilitate humanitarian assistance to Yemen civilians.
- Take serious steps to hold the persons responsible for airstrikes that were identified as violations of international humanitarian law accountable and bring them to justice.
- Stop arms race and buying weapons from States including United States, United Kingdom and France.