

UN Watch Oral Statement
Agenda Item 6: UPR of Saudi Arabia
Delivered by Mr. Hillel Neuer
19 March 2014

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President.

The UPR is designed to apply scrutiny to the human rights record of every UN member state in order to protect human rights. Does the report before us on Saudi Arabia live up to this goal?

Let us consider. We quote from the report:

“Viet Nam noted with appreciation the achievements in the protection of cultural and social rights. It also welcomed the efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons, anti-corruption and combating discrimination, and highlighted difficulties and challenges.”

“Yemen commended the measures to ensure women’s participation as candidates in elections, decision-making and access to managerial positions in employment, and noted measures to protect children from violence.”

“Chad appreciated Saudi Arabia’s accession to a significant number of international human rights instruments.”

“China commended the efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights. It noted programmes to protect the rights of children and achieve the Millennium Development Goals as well as the economic assistance to developing countries. China welcomed efforts to promote dialogue and tolerance among religious groups.”

“Iraq welcomed Saudi Arabia’s accession to OP-CRC-SC, OP-CRC-AC and ILO Convention No. 138. It commended the efforts to promote and protect human rights.”

Mr. President,

Are these statements a fair, accurate and comprehensive representation of the situation of human rights in Saudi Arabia?

Thank you, Mr. President.