



Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Statement by Australia

Thank you Mr President and thanks to the delegation of Saudi Arabia for their report.

Australia deplores the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. Reports that the killing was pre-meditated are deeply alarming. **Australia recommends Saudi Arabia fully co-operates with investigations related to the killing of Khashoggi, implements legislation that holds to account government officials who breach the law, and takes further measures to guarantee freedom of opinion and expression.**

Australia is concerned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen. **Australia recommends Saudi Arabia ensures humanitarian assistance reaches Yemenis in need.**

Australia is concerned about reports of the detention of human rights advocates and government critics. **Australia recommends Saudi Arabia implements legal reforms to ensure proper legal process and to prevent secret and indefinite detention.**

Australia is universally opposed to the death penalty. **Australia recommends Saudi Arabia abolishes the death penalty, and until then an interim moratorium is placed on imposing and enforcing the death penalty, while also introducing a legally-binding age of minority.**

Australia acknowledges recent improvements to women's rights in Saudi Arabia. **Australia recommends further reforms be implemented to improve women's social and economic empowerment, including dismantling the system of male guardianship in law and practice.**

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