

FORUM: The Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Ameliorating the Human Rights situation in Saudi Arabia

SPONSOR: The Russian Federation

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Alarmed by* the current deterioration of the Human Rights situation in Saudi Arabia,

*Contemplating* the impacts that this situation is having on the population of Saudi Arabia,

*Alarmed by* the effects that the situation is having on the political relations of Saudi Arabia with other countries and non-state actors,

*Acknowledging* the extreme amount of power that judges in Saudi Arabia currently have at their disposal,

*Deeply disturbed* by the fact that Saudi Arabia has received the worst possible ratings for both Political Rights and Civil Liberties from Freedom House Reports over the past five years,

*Aware of* Saudi Arabia's role in international conflicts and the violation and restrictions affecting its population as a consequence of such,

*Deeply disturbed* by the lack of action and involvement coming from governing bodies and authorities, which only serves to aggravate the situation,

*Recognizing* the existence of programs such as but not limited to the Counter Radicalization Program in Saudi Arabia,

*Noting with deep concern* the existence of the infliction of corporal punishment as a result of a sentence by a court of law,

*Deeply disappointed* by the United Nations' decision to elect Saudi Arabia as the Chair of the UN Human Rights Panel giving Saudi Arabia the chance to shape International Human Rights Standards despite Saudi Arabia currently owning the worst Human Rights record worldwide,

*Noting* relevant international instruments such as but not limited to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief,

*Expressing its appreciation* towards the stance taken by Saudi Arabia in ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

*Desiring* the Member States to comprehend that the concept of Human Rights as they are being introduced is a Western ideal created to re-shape the culture and traditions of non-western countries and therefore,

*Approving* Saudi Arabia's choice to interpret Human Rights whilst considering the interest of their nation,

1. Emphasizes the need for better cooperation between Members States, to be based not only on financial and military aspects but also on providing support towards issues related to violations of Human Rights;
2. Expresses its hope for the creation of a written penal code in Saudi Arabia in order to define the following, but not limited to:
  - a) Behaviours constituting higher order criminal offence,
  - b) Guidelines for judges and decision-making,
  - c) Penalties for previously established criminal offences,
  - d) Uses of capital punishment,
  - e) General provisions such as but not limited to definitions and prohibitions;
3. Encourages collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) for the creation of the previously mentioned written penal code in OC2;
4. Calls upon Saudi Arabia to increase religious tolerance and end discrimination against religious minorities in Saudi Arabia by:
  - a) Allowing public practice of other religions other than Islam in a defined number of previously established locations,
  - b) Allowing construction of places of worship for other religions other than Islam to be approved by the government,
  - c) Asking the Saudi Arabian government to ratify the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief;
5. Emphasises that for a Member State to assume the powerful role of chairing Human Rights panels, for example the UN Human Rights Panel, such country must fulfil the following criteria:
  - a) Positive feedback from Human Rights Council and Human Rights Watch,
  - b) Not be involved in any sort of armed conflict that might affect the bias of its decisions,
  - c) Establish satisfactory relations with at least two thirds of the attending members,
  - d) Score between one and three on freedom, civil liberties and political rights according to Freedom House Reports,
  - e) Fully commit to promoting international interest and respect of Human Rights;
6. Designates the creation of a National Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission whose members are to be approved by the Human Rights Council and to include UN

observers in order to monitor development of Human Rights and their safeguarding on a national scale for Saudi Arabia;

7. Recommends the establishment of a yearly budget set by Saudi Arabia targeting Human Rights violations by:
  - a) Promoting human rights NGOs,
  - b) Implementing structural and legal reforms,
  - c) Funding programs promoting cultural understanding;
8. Encourages the current Saudi Arabian government and political parties to enhance their cooperation in order to promote agreements whilst giving Saudi Arabia the chance to adapt Human Rights to their national need;
9. Encourages Saudi Arabia to accept the above clauses in order to promote international interests, seeing that the chance for adoption has been provided.