Updated September 2015

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| **UN**  United Nations | Member since  24-Oct-45 |
| **CAT**  Convention on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Prisoners | Acceded to 23-Sept-97 |
| **CAT-OP**  Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | Not signed |
| **CCPR**  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Not signed |
| **CCPR – OP1**  Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Not signed |
| **CCPR –OP2**  Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Not signed |
| **CEDAW**  Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women | Signed and ratified 7-Sept-00 |
| **CEDAW-OP**  Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | Not signed |
| **CERD**  International Covenant on All Forms of Racial Discrimination | Acceded to 23-Sept-97 |
| **CESCR**  International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | Not signed |
| **CRC**  Convention on the Rights of the Child | Acceded to 26-Jan-96 |
| **CRC-OP-AC**  Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | Not signed |
| **CRC-OP-SC**  Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | Not signed |

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| **UPR-First Cycle**  Universal Periodic Review  <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SASession4.aspx> | Adopted 6-Feb-09 |
| **UPR-Second Cycle**  Universal Periodic Review  <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SASession17.aspx> | Adopted 21-Oct-13 |
| **Committee Against Torture Review**  UN Committee Against Torture: Conclusions and Recommendations: Saudi Arabia  <http://www.refworld.org/publisher,CAT,,SAU,3de279334,0.html> | 12-Jun-02 |

**Arab Charter on Human Rights**

* Ratified April 2009
* Reaffirming the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the provisions of the two United Nations International Convenants, on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?docid=3ae6b38540>

**Arab League/League of Arab States**

(founded by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen in March 1945)

* Member
* “The organization’s main goal is “strengthening of the relations between the member-states, the coordination of their policies in order to achieve co-operation between them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty; and a general concern with the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.“ <http://www.arableagueonline.org/hello-world/#more-1>

**GCC - Gulf Cooperation Council/The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**

* Member
* To effect coordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields in order to achieve unity between member states. <http://www.gcc-sg.org/eng/>

**ICC** **- International Criminal Court**

(*Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*)

* Not signed
* The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first permanent international judicial body capable of trying individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. <http://www.iccnow.org/?mod=court>

**MWL - Muslim World League**

* Member
* “It is engaged in propagating the religion of Islam, elucidating its principles and tenets, refuting suspicious and false allegations made against the religion.” <http://www.themwl.org/Profile/default.aspx?l=EN>

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

* Member
* “The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world and ensuring to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.” <http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/page/?p_id=52&p_ref=26&lan=en>

Universal Periodic Review First Cycle:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SASession4.aspx>

UPR Second Cycle: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SASession17.aspx>

***Rec = Recommendation Paragraph Number***

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| **Category** | **UPR Recommendations, 6-Feb-2009**   * Begins at pg 16 of the UPR of the Working Group | **UPR Recommendations, 21-Oct-2013**   * Begins at pg 13 of the UPR of the Working Group |
| ***Use of flogging, caning, lashing as a punishment*** | * Consider ratification of conventions regarding enforced disappearances and the Optional Protocol to CAT [Rec 4] * Cease application of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment [Rec 24 – accepted in part in addendum , para 40] * Elaborate legislative guidelines for codification of discretionary penalties [Rec 27] | * Consider ratification of OP-CAT [Rec 138.6] * Continue review of national laws to ensure they are in line with intl human rights law obligations [Rec 138.28] * Adopt penal code consistent with int’l human rights standards [Rec138.38] * Refrain from imposing death penalty, corporal punishment and life imprisonment for those under 18 [Rec 138.127] * Abolish corporal punishment [Rec 138.129] * Prohibit in law use of torture and other forms of cruel treatment in accordance with CAT [Rec 138.151] |
| ***Prosecution and/or imprisonment of lawyers and other human rights defenders for exercising freedom of expression*** | * Go ahead with intention to ratify International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) [Rec 1] * Consider acceding to international instruments not yet party to, through Human Rights Commission [Rec 1] * Reinforce efforts to implement obligations under int’l human rights law re: freedom of opinion and expression [Rec 5] * Enhance dialogue and propagate tolerance [Rec 10] * Strengthen criminal procedural code and code of practice of lawyers to be in line with int’l standards [Rec 23] | * Ratify ICCPR and ICESCR [Rec 138.8] * Ratify ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention [Rec 138.23] * Revise 2011 law in order to guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, as well as freedom of association and peaceful assembly [Rec 138.52] * Revise judgments against prisoners convicted for having freely expressed their opinion [Rec 138.137] * Ensure judicial and law enforcement system not abused to harass individuals for expressing political or religious views [Rec 138.154] * Remove all obstacles to freedom of expression and movement against human rights defenders, including all travel bans [Rec 138,164] |
| ***Lack of judicial independence*** | * Continue efforts to reform legal and judicial systems [Rec 26] * Expedite implementation of legal guarantees of independence of judiciary [Rec 28] | * Codify its criminal law in line with int’l law and ensure it is applied effectively by an independent and impartial judiciary [Rec 138.37] * Establish training program for judges focusing on SA’s int’l human rights obligations [Rec 138.69] * Carry out further efforts to increase transparency and openness of legal proceedings contemplating death sentences [Rec 138.123] * Train judges and intensify efforts to strengthen role of judiciary [Rec 138.146] * Continue efforts to combat corruption [Rec 138,159] |
| ***Failure to provide and ensure fair trial rights*** | * Become party to the Rome Statute of the ICC [Rec 4 – rejected in addendum, para 6] * Protect rights of individuals facing the death penalty [Rec 22] * Amend the Criminal Code so that only those over the age of 18 will be tried as adults [Rec 23] * Continue efforts to reform legal and judicial systems [Rec 26] | * Consider ratification of Rome Statute [Rec 138.9] * Adopt penal code that clearly defines criminal offences [Rec 138.40] * Take steps to bring criminal and criminal procedure systems in line with intl standards [Rec 138.43] * Declare a moratorium on the death penalty [Rec 138.119] * Continue with efforts to reform the judicial system [Rec 138.141] * Provide maximum judicial transparency, allow officials of third countries to attend public trial [Rec 138.144] * Ensure all individuals afforded due process of law, informed of charges brought against them and given timely and transparent trial [Rec 138,147] |
| ***Failure to protect lawyers and other human rights advocates from interference, harassment, reprisals*** | * Consider ratification of conventions regarding enforced disappearances and the Optional Protocol to CAT [Rec 3] * Disseminate a culture of human rights, while respecting cultural specificities and Shari’a [Rec 9] * Continue efforts to promote peace and tolerance [Rec 32] * Remove obstacles against freedom of expression of human rights defenders, including travel bans [Rec 34 – accepted in part in addendum, para 52] * Guarantee the rights of civil society and human rights defenders, allow their organizations to set themselves up [Rec 34] * Enact law concerning right to form civil societies and protect them from government interference [Rec 35] | * Enhance legislative reforms, take measures to ensure the registration of fully independent human rights NGOs [Rec 138.46] * Adopt laws to protect freedoms of association, expression and religion, give all individuals a legal basis to form NGOs without interference [Rec 138.47] * Accelerate issuance of civil society regulations, guarantee human rights workers freedom and independence [Rec 13.48] * Set time frame for enactment and implementation on law of association [Rec 138.50] * Enact and implement before the next UPR a law allowing for legal creation and registration of independent civil society associations and organisations [Rec 138.54] * Establish national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles [Rec 138.59] |
| ***Use of arbitrary detention*** | * Continue efforts to improve human rights protection [Rec 8] | * Amend law of criminal procedure to comply with intl human rights law [Rec 138.39] * Protect human rights of all individuals without any discrimination based on gender, origin, religion or customs [Rec 138.94] * Prevent arbitrary, secret and indefinite detention and torture in custody [Rec 138.153] * Refrain from exercising oppression and vengeance against legal activits and thos demanding political reforms, the release of all detainees held without due cause and guarantee the rights of prisoners and detainees through fair and just trials [Rec 138.174] |
| ***Failure to follow recommendations of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*** | * Follow up on recommendations in areas of non-discrimination and torture [Rec 14] * Take into consideration Working Group recommendations in line with religious/cultural/social specificities [Rec 31] | * Continue efforts to strengthen institutional and legal basis for protection of human rights [Rec 138.60] * Put into place mechanisms to follow up on UPR recommendations that make it possible to verify the implementation [Rec 138.77] * Reduce the backlog of submission of reports to treaty bodies [Rec 138.82] * Respond positively to special procedures requesting to visit SA [Rec 138.85] |
| ***ALL*** | * Abide by commitments made by ratification of int’l instruments [Rec 6] * Modify domestic legislation to be in accordance with the standards and requirements contained in int’l human rights instruments [Rec 7] * Allow all int’l human rights orgs to visit the country [Rec 13] * Seek assistance from the int’l community to face its challenges [Rec 52] | * Accede to main HR and other int’l HR instruments [Rec 138.1 and 138.2] * Consider lifting reservations to several human rights conventions that are contrary to purpose of the treaties [Rec 138.13] * Continue to put into practice recommendations accepted in the 2009 UPR [Rec 138.76] |

**UPR Notes of concern from 2nd Cycle Discussion**

* UK notes that Saudi Arabia has failed to meet treaty body reporting deadlines and that there has been a lack of access for Special Rapporteurs [para 30]
* US expresses concern over restrictions on freedoms of association, religion and expression, and lack of due process in security-related cases [para 31]
* Australia expresses concern over death penalty and breach of human rights and the rights of the child [para 42]
* Austria expresses concern over lack of due process, absence of written criminal code, use of death penalty, corporal punishment [para 43]
* Belgium expresses concern over women and human rights defenders [ para 47]
* Brazil expresses concern over restrictive reservations, and lack of ratification of two main HR covenants [par 51]
* Cyprus commends project to build capacity of judiciary [para 65]
* Czech Republic regrets NGOs are not able to operate freely in the country [para 66]
* Hungary appreciates signing of Memorandum of Understanding re cooperation with OHCHR, asks whether powers of Human Rights Commission are to be expanded [para 76]
* Ireland concerned that no law enacted guaranteeing right to form civil society organizations and independent NGOs cannot register [para 80]
* Lithuania concerned law of association has not been implemented [para 90]
* Mexico hopes Saudi Arabia would accept visit requests from Special Rapporteurs [para 94]
* Norway expresses concern over high number of executions and the situation of human rights defenders [para 102]
* Spain regrets Saudi Arabia has not complied with commitments re rights of persons sentenced to capital punishment, particularly children [para 120]
* Sweden notes number of executions appears to have increased, and asks whether corporal punishment might be abolished [para 124]
* Saudi Arabia states that Islam is the supreme religious and social authority in the country, and that sharia forbids “religious insult” and this is not a violation of freedom of opinion [para 135]