



WOMEN'S MARCH GLOBAL

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Iceland Delivers First Ever Joint Statement on Saudi Arabia

The statement calls for the release of Women Human Rights Defenders and condemns the killing of Khashoggi

WORLD | March 8 - A cross-regional group of 36 states, including EU Member States, called for the release of imprisoned Women Human Rights Defenders at the interactive dialogue held on March 7 with the UN High Commissioner at the Human Rights Council. This is the first time ever that States at the Council collectively condemned human rights violations committed by Saudi Arabia.

Since mid-2018 a group of peaceful activists have been detained in Saudi Arabia. Several were denied access to their families, while all remain without access to legal representation. In addition to being imprisoned, [reports](#) have emerged revealing that many of the detained women were subjected to torture, including flogging, sexual assault, and electric shocks. According to testimonies some of the women have been left unable to walk or stand properly, with uncontrollable shaking.

Prior to the 40th session of the Council, [Women's March Global](#), along with more than 50 human rights organisations, called for the immediate and unconditional release of these detained Saudi Women Human Rights Defenders.

"This is a very big step for the 36 member states who have come forward but we are disappointed that more have not followed," said Uma Mishra-Newbery, Executive Director at Women's March Global. "This step shows that while progress is being made and the work of our coalition is making a difference, more work still needs to be done in holding Saudi Arabia accountable. We are concerned with every passing day at the safety of these activists and hope that member states will continue to keep pressure on Saudi Arabia."

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ABOUT WOMEN'S MARCH GLOBAL

Women's March Global empowers communities, organisations and individuals to start Chapters, take action, organise events and learn. Women's March Global community chapters are run independently, under a free license from Women's March Global.

Websites: www.womensmarchglobal.org

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