

# Saudi Arabia's Legal Framework



- Not a signatory to ICCPR
- Basic Law (1992)
- Counter Terrorism Law of 2017
- Cyber Crimes Law of 2007
- Law on Associations and Foundations of 2016

# Freedom of Association



*General Recommendation: Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society...*

*Specific recommendations: (1) Remove legal restrictions, (2) Remove criminal responsibility for participating in activities of non-registered organisations, (3) Reinstate CSOS that were arbitrarily sanctioned, (4) Cease the disruption or closure of peaceful activities and allow dissenting views.*

# Harassment, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists



*General Recommendation: Provide civil society members, HRDs and journalists with a safe and secure environment ...investigate attacks, harassment and intimidation ....bring the perpetrators of such offences to justice.*

*Specific Recommendations: (1) End legal and administrative harassment, (2) Amend 2017 counter-terrorism law to prevent prosecution of those peacefully exercising their human rights, (3) Release HRDs, journalists and bloggers imprisoned for exercising their human rights, (4) Protect and enable civil society to exercise their rights*

# Freedom of Expression



*General Recommendation: Amend the 2003 Press and Publication Law, 2007 Cybercrime Law and 2017 Counter-Terrorism Law to enshrine protections for free and peaceful expression and dissent.*

*Specific Recommendations: (1) Reform defamation, blasphemy and apostasy laws so as not to criminalise free expression, (2) Ensure that journalists and writers may work freely even if addressing sensitive topics, (3) Lift restrictions on freedom of expression, (4) Allow unfettered access to all people in Saudi Arabia to domestic and foreign media, (5) Align Internet laws with commitments to allow freedom of expression.*

# Freedom of Association/Assembly



General recommendation: Promulgate a law granting residents the right to peaceful assembly.

Specific Recommendations: (1) Adopt best practices as put forward in 2012 by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, (2) Unconditionally and immediately release all those detained for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly, (3) Review and, if necessary, update existing human rights training for police and security forces, (4) Provide recourse to judicial review and effective remedy, including compensation, in cases of unlawful denial of the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly by state authorities.