



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 11 December 2014

Mr Chairman,

I join others in celebrating the International Human Rights Day. I support the points made by Italy on behalf of the European Union, by the United States and by Canada, also on behalf of other participating States. I have a few points to make myself.

Mr Chairman,

Yesterday was also the day of the Nobel Prize awards, for natural sciences and literature in Stockholm and for peace in Oslo.

In Oslo Malala Yousufzai from Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi from India were awarded the Peace Prize for their struggle for education and against child labour. They won the prize for their fight for the right to freedom from slavery and the right to education. They are human rights defenders.

By awarding the prize to human rights defenders, the Nobel Peace Committee underscores the intimate relationship between human rights and security and stability, between human rights and peace.

Mr Chairman,

Yesterday was also the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the convention against torture. Norway regrets that we were unable to reach agreement in Basel on renewing and advancing our OSCE commitments related to torture. We should not give up on this.

Mr Chairman,

I will take this opportunity to commend the United States for having publicised the report of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on the CIA's former detention and interrogation programme. We condemn the practices that this report reveals. But we commend the US for their openness. Some countries take advantage

of this and use the information to criticise – and that is ironically often states that themselves would never openly admit their own wrongdoings. The US has shown itself as a role model in sharing this report.

Mr. Chairman,

On the International Human Rights Day we should all be humble. No country is without human rights issues. We all go through the UN Universal Periodic Review of our human right situation, and we all receive recommendations for improvement. We can all do better in implementing our OSCE human dimension commitments. These commitments are the foundation of security, stability and peace.

Thank you, Mr Chairman