



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 16 April 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.

Mr Chairman,

We condemn the recent executions of Mr. Kent Sprouse and Mr. Manuel Garza in Texas, and of Mr. Andre Cole in Missouri.

Death penalty undermines human dignity. We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region.

In the international community, there is increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Last December, a record number of countries – 117 – supported the fifth UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

We reiterate our opposition to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances.

Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriages of justice irreversible

We would like to see a universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.