



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 14 May 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly condemn this week's execution of Mr. Derrick Charles in Texas. This brings the number of executions in the United States of America this year to 14.

Our countries oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exception, and we are consistently calling for its universal abolition. Death penalty undermines human dignity. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriages of justice irreversible.

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

Mr. Chairman,

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.