



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Second Secretary Jens Reinertsen
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 16 July 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn the execution of Mr. Gregory Rousseau in Texas, 18 June 2015. This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 17, and 9 in the State of Texas.

Mr. Chairman,

Death penalty undermines human dignity. Our countries oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exceptions, and we are constantly calling for its abolition. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriage 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 117 UN member states 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.