



## 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, 8 October 2015

Thank you, Madam Chair,

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

We strongly condemn the executions of three convicted prisoners in the United States since our last meeting.

Ms. Kelly Gissendaner in Georgia, Mr. Alfredo Prieto in Virginia and Mr. Juan Garcia in Texas.

This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 23.

Madam Chair,

Death penalty undermines human dignity. We oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exceptions. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriage of justice irreversible.

Madam Chair,

In the international community, there is an increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Last week the Human Rights Council adopted by a clear majority a resolution highlighting the link between those two issues.

Madam Chair,

10th October is the World Day against the Death Penalty. There is a growing momentum towards abolishing this punishment.

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

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

Thank you, Madam Chair.