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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, 3 March 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn the executions of Mr. Gustavo Garcia in Texas on the 16th of February, and Mr. Travis Hittson in Georgia, on the 17th of February.

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.

Mr. Chairman,

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 cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. There is a growing momentum towards the abolishment of the death penalty.

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

In December 2014 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.