



**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**Response Regarding the Execution of**  
**Brian Keith Terrell**

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 10, 2015

Thank you to our colleagues from the delegations of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, San Marino and Switzerland for raising their concerns. As they noted, on December 9, the State of Georgia executed Brian Keith Terrell for the 1992 murder of John Watson.

The United States recognizes the debate on the death penalty both within and among nations. We respect the views of our friends around this table. We remind colleagues that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the United States is a party, provides for imposition of the death penalty for the most serious crimes when carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court, and accompanied by appropriate procedural safeguards and the observance of due process. This includes the right to seek pardon or commutation of sentence in all cases.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.