



**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, 19 November 2015

Mr Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn the execution of Mr Raphael Holiday in Texas yesterday, 18 November.

This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 26, and 13 in the state of Texas.

Mr Chairman,

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.

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 other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. The Human Rights Council recently adopted by a clear majority a resolution highlighting the link between those two issues.

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, Mr Chairman.