



**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, 26 November 2015

Mr. Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn the execution of Mr Marcus Johnson in Georgia on 19 November.

This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 27.

In 2015, only one country among our 57 participating States has carried out capital punishment. We note that the number of executions in the US has gone down from 35 in 2014 to 27 this year. We also note that executions only took place in six States, which is one State less than last year.

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.