



**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, 11 June 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn this week's execution of Mr. Richard Strong in Missouri. This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 16.

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.

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

Mr. Chairman,

In the international community, there is 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.

Last December 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.