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United States Mission to the OSCE
**Response Regarding the Execution
of Raphael Holiday**

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 19, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chair, and thank you to our colleagues from Norway and other delegations for raising their concerns.

As noted, on November 18, the State of Texas executed Raphael Holiday for the murder, in the year 2000, of his 18 month-old daughter Justice Holiday, five year-old Jasmine DuPaul, and seven year-old Tierra Lynch.

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.