
amnesty international

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2006

STATEMENT IN WORKING SESSION 8: RULE OF LAW I

Abolition of capital punishment; prevention of torture; international humanitarian law; protection of human rights and fighting terrorism

Recommendations:

In relation to **the abolition of capital punishment,**

- Amnesty International calls on the three OSCE Participating States which continue the practice of judicial executions – Belarus, Uzbekistan and the USA – should impose a moratorium on executions; that those which have such a moratorium but continue to pass death sentences – Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan – should convert their moratoria to full abolition; and that all under sentence of death be held in conditions which meet international standards.

In relation to **prohibition of torture,**

- Amnesty International calls on OSCE to remind all participating states that human dimension commitments, including those relating to the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment are not simply matters of internal affairs of the State concerned, but rather are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all OSCE Participating States and (Moscow Document, 1991);
- OSCE Participating States that have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture should ratify it immediately.

In relation to **human rights and terrorism,** Amnesty International calls on OSCE Participating States to:

- Enforce the prohibition of forcible return or transfer of any person to any place where there are substantial grounds to believe that the person would be at risk of grave human rights violations or the death penalty; and do not seek or accept "diplomatic assurances" or similar bilateral agreements where there are substantial grounds for believing that a person for whom a forcible return or transfer is contemplated would be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.
- The US government must clarify the fate and whereabouts of all people who have been secretly detained and guarantee fair trials for all people in its custody.