



**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, 12 March 2015

Thank you, Madam Chair,

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

Madam Chair,

We condemn yesterday's execution of Manuel Vasquez in Texas.

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

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 countries – 117 – 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, Madam Chair.