

Moving away from the Death Penalty: Protection of the rights of persons facing death penalty abroad, including migrants

29th Session of the Human Rights Council Side Event
Wednesday, 17 June 2015, 11:00-13:00
Room No. XII Palais des Nations

"The death penalty has no place in the 21st Century" - Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations

Recent reports of the UN Secretary General identified discrimination in death penalty cases involving foreign nationals. Such persons can be arbitrarily and disproportionately affected by the death penalty due to unfamiliarity with the laws and procedures in the prosecuting State. They may have limited legal aid and inadequate legal representation; may be unable to understand the language in which proceedings are conducted; and less likely to have a support network of family and friends. The lack of access to consular assistance is also a critical concern. Authorities' refusal to exercise clemency or commutation in cases involving foreign nationals may amount to human rights violations.

The side-event will provide a platform for the exchange of information and views on persons who face the death penalty abroad, including migrant workers; and to share good practices, lesson learned and challenges in the implementation of relevant international human rights standards.

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Program

Introductory Remarks:

H.E Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco
Permanent Representative of Mexico to
the United Nations Offices at Geneva

Mona Rishmawi
Chief, Rule of Law, Equality and Non-
Discrimination, OHCHR

Moderator:

Laurel Townhead, Representative
(Human Rights & Refugees), *Quaker
United Nations Office*

Panellists:

Christof Heyns
United Nations Special Rapporteur on
Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary
Executions

Erasmus Lara Cabrera
Deputy Director General for Human
Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Mexico

Prasad Kariyawasam
Member, the UN Committee on Migrants
Workers

Hannah Gorman
Solicitor-Advocate, Head of Engaging
Europe and Foreign Nationals Project,
Reprieve, Reprieve

Ellene Sana
Executive Director, Center for Migrant
Advocacy, Philippines