

## STATEMENT ON DEATH PENALTY

Many countries of the OSCE region which still do not abolish a capital punishment established a moratorium for executions. Being humanistic from the first look such approach created a problem of ill-treatment of death row prisoners who are detained long years in the overcrowded prison facilities without exercises, fresh air, in isolation from the relatives.

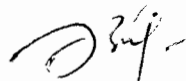
In the Soviet period, every republic of USSR established own death row facilities, and only they are to be used for detention of this category of prisoners. The capacity of these death row was accounted for the certain number of condemned prisoners who usually had been executed or pardoned during period of about one year. Obviously, that in 1 year of moratorium, the death row cells would be overcrowded in twice, in 2 years – in 3 times, etc.

The moratorium also does not change the status of sentenced prisoners and respectively, their regime of detention is the same as in death row. In overcrowded cells is spreads tuberculosis and other infections, the permanent psychological tension provokes suicides and conflicts between prisoners and personnel and between prisoners themselves.

In Azerbaijan, about 70 prisoners had died from illnesses and ill-treatment of personnel during 5 years of de facto moratorium of 1993-1998. Consequently, 30 more died already after abolishment of death penalty in Azerbaijan. The same terrible fate is awaited any prisoners detaining under the moratorium in death row facilities of Central Asian members of OSCE.

Therefore, I propose the OSCE to urge the relevant member countries to transfer the non-executed death row prisoners in the prison facilities and to change the detention regime to the one equal to life imprisonment.

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