

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in the State of New Jersey ***Statement by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe***

United Nations, New York, 14.12.2007 - "On my arrival at the United Nations today, I am delighted to hear that New Jersey voted to abolish the death penalty. This decision is logical and just, but it is also courageous in view of the opposition from those people who still believe in this uncivilized and barbaric form of punishment. This decision in New Jersey accelerates the momentum towards the abolition of death penalty across the United States of America. This trend is evident in the growing number of moratoria on executions and the challenge of the lethal injection before the US Supreme Court.

The abolition of the death penalty in New Jersey is in step with what is happening in the world. It is no coincidence that next week, across the Hudson river from New Jersey, the United Nations General Assembly will debate, and hopefully adopt a resolution calling for a global moratorium and ban on the death penalty. The Council of Europe, which has already achieved a legal ban on executions in Europe, strongly supports this initiative."

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