

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **BELGIUM**

- Taking into regard the principled opposition of Belgium to capital punishment we request the delegation of the US to give an overview of:
  - The number of states where capital punishment has been abolished and the number of states where there is a de facto moratorium on capital punishment and the evolution for both these numbers since the first UPR cycle.
  - The evolution since the first UPR cycle in the mode of administering capital punishment and more information on the particularly worrisome reintroduction of the fire squad.
  - The evolution in the alleged overrepresentation of ethnic minorities on death row and the evolution for these numbers since the first UPR cycle.
  - The guarantees that people with mental illness shall not be subjected to capital punishment.
  
- Since the ratification by Somalia of the Convention on the Rights of the Child only two UN member states remain who have not yet ratified the UN Convention on the rights of the Child. We appreciate that during the first UPR cycle the US delegation has supported recommendations to go forward on ratification of this important Convention. Can the US delegation inform us where we stand in the internal debate on the ratification of this now almost universal Human rights instrument and the prospects for ratification by the United States?
  
- The Belgian delegation also appreciates that during the first UPR cycle the US delegation has supported recommendations to go forward on ratification the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Can the US delegation what are prospects for ratification of both instruments?
  
- The Belgian delegation also notes with appreciation the support by the US delegation for recommendations to close without delay the Guantánamo detention facility and to provide solutions for remaining detainees in line with international human rights law, in particular the ICCPR. Can we be provided with a progress report on this issue?