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.

**Panellists:**

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

**Erasmo 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

**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