



EUROPEAN UNION

Port of Spain, 25 September 2013

For immediate release

Film screening at the occasion of the International Day against Death Penalty

Between 1993 and 2012, the number of countries worldwide that abolished the death penalty grew from 55 to 97. By the end of last year, 140 countries - more than 2/3 of the countries of the world - were abolitionist in law or in practice.

The EU considers capital punishment to be a cruel and inhuman punishment, which fails to provide a deterrent to criminal behaviour and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity. Any miscarriage of justice – inevitable in any legal system – is irreversible.

In this context the EU works both on individual cases and towards moratoria of the application of the death penalty and, in due course, abolition. The EU is fully committed to continuing its efforts to promote the permanent abolition of capital punishment and funded more than €20 million worth of activities worldwide that supported capital punishment abolition.

In commemoration of the International World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October, the EU Member States and the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago invite members of the public to a screening of "Into the Abyss".

Into the Abyss, subtitled "A Tale of Death, a Tale of Life", is a documentary film written and directed by Werner Herzog, about two young men convicted of a triple homicide which occurred in Texas in 2001. Michael Perry received a death sentence for the crime, and Jason Burkett received a life sentence. The film focuses on the two convicts and various people affected by the crime. Perry's final interviews for the film were recorded only eight days before his execution on July 1, 2010.

The free of charge screening takes place in the UTT Theatre at NAPA on 10 October at 6.30pm. Tickets are available at the screening as of 5.30pm on a first come, first served basis.

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