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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the execution in Japan

"We deeply regret the execution in Japan of death row inmate Masanori Kawasaki today. This brings the number of people executed to sixteen since the end, in September 2012, of a de facto moratorium of over two years.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances, and has consistently called for its universal abolition. The EU believes that the death penalty is cruel and inhumane and that its abolition is essential to protect human dignity.

While recognising the serious nature of the crime involved, it calls again on the Japanese authorities to consider a moratorium on executions and to promote a thorough public debate on moving away from capital punishment, in line with the worldwide trend."

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