

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

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Iranian/Saudi/Myanmar Other Executions of Protesters Raise Call For President Biden to Vote YES for Global Moratorium UN Vote Set for Thursday

Washington, DC - Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley sent a letter to supporters on International Human Rights Day yesterday, urging encouragement for President Biden to make history by changing the United States' stance on Thursday's vote at the United Nations on a resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions.

The issue has become more urgent in light of recent executions of protesters in a number of countries where citizens are rising up against human rights violations by their own governments, most notably in Iran, where dozens face imminent execution for protesting a woman's death in the custody of Iran's morality police. Governor O'Malley's letter is below. Similar resolutions have been voted on by the UN General Assembly every other year since 2007, but this is the first time the vote is taking place when a sitting US President has an articulated position opposing the death penalty.

A platform for the public to send notes of encouragement to President Biden has been established by Death Penalty Action at bit.ly/BidenYES. A press conference being organized for Governor O'Malley by Witness to Innocence (WTI), a U.S. based organization led by exonerated death row survivors, along with Catholic and Civil Rights groups, and political leaders is scheduled for 3pm on Tuesday at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. A Sign-On Letter to the President will be released at that time.

Governor O'Malley's letter to supporters:

Dear [Name],

As Governor, I led the effort to make Maryland the first state south of the Mason-Dixon line to repeal the death penalty, which we accomplished in 2013. I've never lost interest in the issue. More recently, I've been serving on the International Commission Against the Death Penalty.

I am writing to you now to ask for your help. [Next Thursday](#) (12/15), the United Nations is scheduled to hold a vote on a resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions. We need

to [ask President Biden to order the US Ambassador to the United Nations to vote YES](#) in support of the resolution.

In a committee vote last month, **the United States voted no, standing with countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Myanmar.** Not only do those countries execute frequently, they have recently been using the death penalty to punish citizens who have attended public protests against their own governments - a right we hold dear in our country.

President Biden has declared his opposition to the death penalty. He has halted federal executions and pledged to support efforts to abolish the federal and military death penalty. Voting YES at the United Nations next week should be easy, but we need to make sure the President knows he has our support.

[SEND A MESSAGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE.](#)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours in the Struggle for Human Rights,

Governor Martin O'Malley,

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