

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 21, 2010

**Statement by the Press Secretary on Adoption of U.S. Sponsored Amendment to Ensure
Gays and Lesbians
Are Covered By UN Resolution on Extrajudicial Execution**

President Obama applauds those countries that supported the amendment offered by the United States to ensure that “sexual orientation” remains covered by the United Nations resolution on extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary execution. Killing people because of their sexual orientation cannot be rationalized by diverse religious values or varying regional perspectives. Killing people because they are gay is not culturally defensible – it is criminal.

While today’s adoption of an inclusive resolution is important, so too are the conversations that have now begun in capitals around the world about inclusion, equality, and discrimination. Protecting gays and lesbians from state-sponsored discrimination is not a special right, it is a human right. Today’s vote in the United Nations marks an important moment in the struggle for civil and human rights. The time has come for all nations to redouble our efforts to end discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

###

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

December 21, 2010

2010/1850

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

UN General Assembly Action on Sexual Orientation

I am pleased by the UN General Assembly’s action today to include sexual orientation in a resolution condemning extrajudicial and summary executions. The United States introduced this language to send an unequivocal message in concert with our many international partners: No one should be killed for who they are.

Sadly, many people around the world continue to be targeted and killed because of their sexual orientation. These heinous crimes must be condemned and investigated wherever they occur.

We look forward to continuing our work with others around the world to protect the human rights of those facing threats or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

###