



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

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Terry Barnard
Chairman
Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 458, Balcony Level, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334-4909

Fax: 404-651-6670
Email: laqsmith@pap.state.ga.us

Subject: Death Penalty Case – Mr Warren Lee Hill

Dear Mr Barnard,

The European Union respectfully refers to its letters of February 13, 2013, and July 9, 2012, and would like to renew its urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Warren Lee Hill, who has been on death row since 1991 and who is scheduled to be executed on January 27, 2015.

While recognizing the serious nature of the crimes involved, and expressing our understanding and sympathies for the suffering of the deceased victim and of his surviving family, the European Union would like, respectfully, to draw again your attention to the mental situation of Mr Hill.

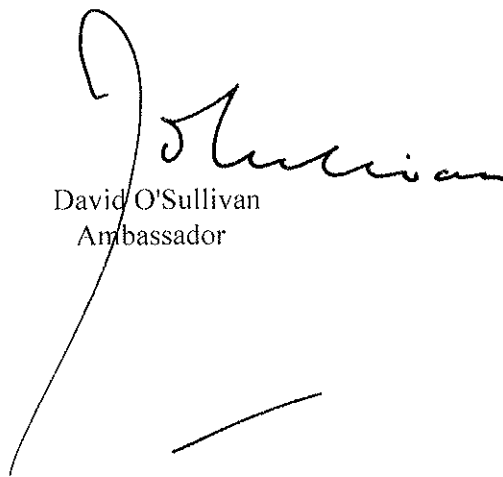
In particular, the European Union notes with concern that there is evidence to suggest that Mr Warren Lee Hill is intellectually disabled, since in 2002 he was found by a state court judge to have "a heavy mental retardation, with an undisputed IQ of 70 accompanied by significant adaptive deficits, among them difficulties with communication, social skills, functional academics, abstract thinking, judgement and impulse control".

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights. In this vein, the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 2014 a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012, expressly asking all countries that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

In addition, the European Union strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disability is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments, as well as being prohibited by the US Constitution.

Therefore the European Union respectfully urges you, as we have also urged the Governor of Georgia, to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr Warren Lee Hill relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,



David O'Sullivan
Ambassador