



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Head of Delegation

Washington, 16 March, 2017
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The Honorable
Asa Hutchinson
Governor,
State of Arkansas
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Fax: 501 682 3597

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

The European Union notes with concern the fact that eight men are scheduled to be executed by lethal injection in the state of Arkansas between April 17 and April 27. The European Union, represented by the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, wishes to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr Bruce Earl Ward, Mr Don Williamson Davis, Mr Ledell Lee, Mr Stacey Eugene Johnson, Mr Jack Harold Jones, Mr Marcel W. Williams, Mr Kenneth D. Williams, and Mr Jason F. McGehee. These executions would put an end to the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, which has been in place in Arkansas since the execution of Mr Eric Randall Nance on 28 November 2005.

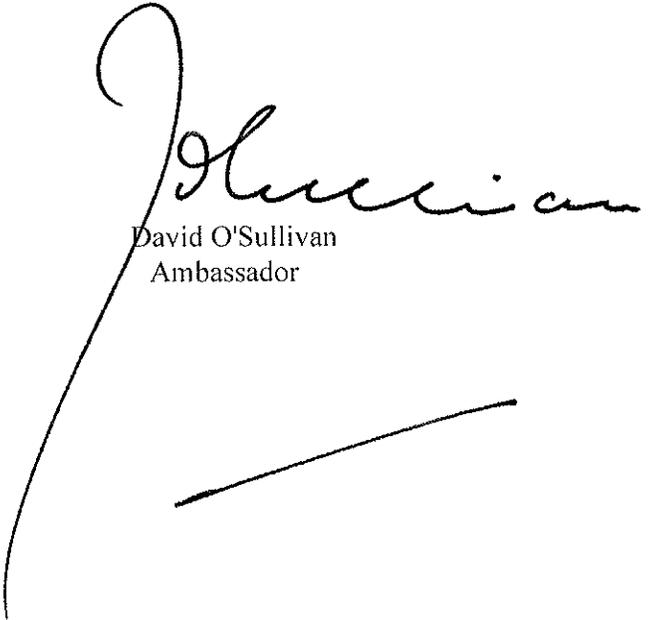
The European Union recognises the serious nature of the crimes involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathies to the surviving families and friends of the victims. However, the European Union does not believe that their loss will be mitigated by the death of these eight men.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly 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 the present case, the European Union notes with concern that since the resumption of the use of the death penalty in 1977 in the USA, only twice has a state conducted eight executions in a single calendar month. But no state has ever conducted eight executions over a 10-day period. It would be a very concerning precedent. Furthermore, we are convinced that applying the death penalty will have no deterrent effect.

The European Union respectfully urges you, Governor, to take these factors into account and to commute the sentences of Mr Bruce Earl Ward, Mr Don Williamson Davis, Mr Ledell Lee, Mr Stacey Eugene Johnson, Mr Jack Harold Jones, Mr Marcel W. Williams, Mr Kenneth D. Williams, and Mr Jason F. McGehee and grant them relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,



David O'Sullivan
Ambassador